

May 2009

Contact Information



Director
Susan Dinan, Ph.D.
dinans@wpunj.edu
126 Raubinger Hall

Assistant Director
Jan Pinkston
pinkstonj@wpunj.edu
127 Raubinger Hall

Highlights

- More Honors Week News **2**
- Honors Convocation **3**
- Philadelphia Trip **3**
- End of the Semester Fun **4**
- Fall 2009 Classes **4**



**WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY**

A message from the Director...



Ngoc Nhung T. Nguyen was one of the Honors students who presented during Honors Week.

Honors Week was a great success this year. Graduating students in 5 Honors tracks presented the results of their Honors thesis projects.

Events began during the afternoon on Tuesday, April 21 with a keynote presentation by Music Track student Jordan Piper, who has earned a Bachelor of Music degree and completed the Honors Music Track. Jordan's presentation "The Piano Style of Sonny Clark," featured a jazz quartet with Jordan playing piano and giving a short lecture. Yelena Smirnova from the Biopsychology Honors Track who will be graduating later this year with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology followed Jordan with a presentation about her research on autism in mice entitled, "The effects of a viral mimic poly I:C on BTBR T+/tf mice; mice models for autism."

Yelena was followed by a second graduate of the Music Track and the Bachelor of Music program, Theodore Metz, who lectured on his thesis, Performance/Lecture of Christopher Tiznor's Compositions." The afternoon concluded with a presentation by Lindsey Busse, who earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and is part of the Social Sciences Honors Track. She spoke about her thesis, "The Impact of Adolescent Suicide on Peers, Family, and Community."



Theo Metz discussed his Music Honors thesis during the 2009 Honors Week at William Paterson.



Many students, faculty and staff gathered to hear Honors students discuss their thesis research during Honors Week, April 20-24, 2009.

On Tuesday evening, students in the Performing and Literary Arts Track read from their creative works in Hobart Manor. Jessica Barish, who is earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication read from her selection of personal essays, "The Nature of Being Nurtured." Phebe Varghese, who has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, writing concentration, shared a selection from her collection of short stories "Nothing Special."

Continued next page...



Several students completing the Honors Literary and Performing Arts Track presented excerpts of their work on Tuesday, April 21 in Hobart Manor. (Pictured from left: Jessica Barish, Dr. Philip Cioffari, Director of the Performing and Literary Arts Track, Lindsay Tierstein, Terry McGahan, and Phebe Varghese (not present for the photo: Patrick Hanan).



Former Honors student, Carl Bolleia, was the guest speaker at the Honors Banquet on Thursday, April 23.

Patrick Hanan, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, writing concentration, read from his novella, "Arachnid." Patrick's presentation was followed by one from Terry McGahan, who also graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, writing concentration. Terry read from his story "Merry Street."

The evening concluded with Lindsey Tierstein sharing a selection from her novella "Seven Cycles." Lindsey

graduated with a degree in Communications, film concentration.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a second afternoon of these presentations. Mayra Gastell, who graduated in January 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and completed the Social Sciences Honors Track, started the afternoon with a lecture about her thesis project, "Training Parents of Autistic Children: A Proposal for Refining ABA-based Programs." Ngoc Nhung T. Nguyen who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology presented the conclusions of her Biopsychology Honors Track thesis project, "Effects of viral mimic poly I:C on development of autistic-like symptoms in stress-reactive BTBR mouse." The afternoon concluded with presentations by two students in the Humanities track.

Jessica Merrick will graduate in January 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and she spoke about her thesis, "Technology Effects Interpersonal Communication." Michael Milling, who has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary Education discussed his thesis project, "Agnieszka Get Your Pitchfork: The Road to Revolution."



Honors students, faculty and staff attended the annual Honors Banquet.

On Thursday evening track directors and students from all Honors tracks came together for the Honor's Week banquet in the ballroom. Carl Bolleia, a 2008 graduate of the Music Honors Track, spoke about his experiences in the Honors College. Carl is currently a graduate student at the City University of New York – Brooklyn where he studies piano and music theory.



The annual Honors banquet is held each year at the conclusion of Honors Week at William Paterson.



Honors Music Track students, Dan Ruffolo (left) and Leo Sherman, provided dinner music at the Honors Banquet.

I would like to sincerely thank the directors of the Honors tracks for their dedication to working with Honor College students! Without their skills as mentors there would be no Honors College.

The track directors are: Robert Benno, Biopsychology; Philip Cioffari, Performing and Literary Arts; Jeffrey Kresky, Music; Neil Kressel, Social Sciences; Katherine Makarec, Cognitive Science; Christina McSherry, Nursing; Raza Mir, Management and Marketing; John Peterman, Humanities; and Karen Swanson, Life Sciences and Environmental Ethics.

I would also like to thank all the students, faculty, and staff who joined us in celebrating Honors Week at William Paterson.

Susan Bolleia



Jordan Piper (seated at the piano), presented a portion of his Honors thesis during the Honors Convocation on Monday, May 18th.

Annual Honors Convocation a success!

The Spring 2009 Honors Convocation was held Monday, May 18 in Shea Auditorium. During this annual ceremony held the evening prior to commencement, awards are presented to the top students from each department and college in the University, as well as to the students completing a track of the University Honors College. This year, approximately 85 students were recognized.

Music before and after the ceremony was provided by Campbell Charshee, piano; John Czolacz, drums; Dave Levy, trumpet; and Ethan O'Reilly, bass. Following opening remarks by Dr. Susan Dinan, Director of the University College, and Dr. Edward Weil, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Deans presented awards to the students from the various departments in each of their colleges, as well as the Dean's Awards for their college.

During the ceremony, Jordan Piper, a student completing the Music Honors Track, presented a portion of this Honors thesis research, *Sonny Clark: A Singular Voice in the Hard Bop Idiom*. Jordan, originally from Bellingham, Washington, graduated this spring with a B.M in Jazz Studies and Performance. In addition to being recognized for completing the Honors Music Track, Jordan was also awarded the *Music Scholar Award* from the Department of Music. This award is presented to the student who demonstrates outstanding achievement in music.

Following Jordan's presentation, the Honors Track Directors recognized students completing the various Honors Tracks: Ngoc Nhung T. Nguyen, Biopsychology; Michael Rodger Milling, Jr., Humanities; Theodore Loren Dunn Metz and Jordan N. Piper, Music; Patrick Donald Hanan, Terence J. McGahan, Jessica L. Mongiello, Lindsay B. Tierstein, and Phebe S. Varghese, Literary and Performing Arts; and Lindsey Renee Busse, Kelly Chivonne Patterson, Erin S. Burger, and Mayra Elizabeth Gastell, Social Sciences Track.

In addition to Jordan Piper, several other Honors College students received multiple awards: Erin Burger received the *Outstanding Academic Achievement and Research Award* from the Department of Psychology, the *Paul P. Vouras Social Sciences Award* from the Departments of Sociology, Psychology, and Political Science, and the *Dean's Award for Social Sciences* from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Terence McGahan received the *Dean's Award for Humanities* from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; and Ngoc Nguyen received the *Outstanding Academic Achievement and Research Award* from the Department of Psychology.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, graduating senior, Chris Weiss, was awarded the William Paterson Alumni Association's *Outstanding Senior Award* by Brad Weisberger ('92), Recording Secretary of the University Alumni Association. Dr. Arnold Speert, President of William Paterson University, gave the closing remarks.

Members of the Honors Convocation planning committee included the Associate Deans of each college, Imafidon Olaye, Rajiv Kashyap, Dorothy Feola, Kara Rabbitt, and Jean Fuller-Stanley, as well as Susan Dinan and Jan Pinkston from the Honors College. A special thanks goes to Linnea Weiland from the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education for assisting with the awards presentation, as well as to the Honors College student assistant, Laura Jo Rieske, and student volunteers Alan Buxbaum, Peter Kennedy, Jessica Pepe, and Melissa Zola for assisting prior to the ceremony.

Honors Club organizes bus trip

On Saturday, April 4th, the Honors College Club organized an out-of-state field trip to Philadelphia for the day. A busload of students enjoyed a historical walking tour in downtown Philadelphia, lunch at the Reading Terminal Market, and a visit to the Fox Art Gallery on the University of Pennsylvania's campus.

Thanks to Kristina Kosztyo for organizing the trip!



Congratulations, Graduates!

Honors students Mike Milling and Lindsay Tierstein were all smiles at the Commencement ceremony on May 19th.



**Best wishes
to all the
Honors
Graduates!**



End-of-the-semester fun

Honors students (from left), Kristina Kosztyo, Yelena Smirnova, and Jess Pepe, had a great time at the year-end carnival sponsored by the Peer Health Advocates in early May.



SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Honors Ice Cream Social

Monday, September 14, 2009
2:30—4:00
Location TBA



Tennis anyone?

Dave Pomerantz (top) Nick Bauter (center), and Brian Messenger (not pictured), participated in a tennis tournament sponsored by the Honors Tennis Club last month.

If you would like more information about joining the Tennis Club, please contact Nick Bauter (bautern@student.wpunj.edu) or send an email to honors@wpunj.edu.

Fall 2009 Honors GE Course listing

A few seats are still available in the following Honors courses for the Fall 2009 semester. If you would like to enroll, please contact Jan Pinkston (pinkstonj@wpunj.edu or 973-720-3657).

COMM 101 – Introduction to Theatre

J. Beal – F 11:00 – 1:40

A wide-ranging and free-wheeling look at theatre in all its aspects from all sides- script, staging, performing, watching, directing, technical work, historical, contemporary, dramatic, comedic, and musical. In short, we try to answer these questions: what is theatre, and why should we care?

ARTH 104-01 – Approaches to Modern Art

Instructor TBA—TR 3:30-4:45

A study of the major movements, individuals and issues in visual art, from its origins in the cave paintings of Altamira and Lascaux through its continuation into the present. The course emphasizes the acquisition of visual literacy in “reading,” analyzing and understanding art. Opportunities to view and interact with original art are emphasized, along with the development of student writing skills.

ENG 110 – Writing Effective Prose –

P. Cioffari – MW 3:30 – 4:45

Students will write out their life experiences to create compelling, well-crafted essays. Emphasis will be on content, use of language and structure, as well as other elements of style. Time will also be devoted to research, and the development of a research paper.

ENV 110 – Environmental Foundations –

K. Swanson—MW 9:30-10:45, Lab, W 2:00

This course will stress a holistic view of the environment from the viewpoints of several disciplines of the sciences, the social sciences and the humanities.

ECON 201 – Macroeconomic Principles –

J. Chandra — TR 9:30 -10:45

This course will focus on major macroeconomic issues, policies, and problems. Topics will include measurement and determination of the level of economic activity (size and components of GNP, employment, inflation, growth); fiscal policy (government spending and taxation) and monetary policy.

SOC 101 – Principles of Sociology

M. Ellis — TR 3:30—4:15

The course is intended to familiarize students with the major subject areas, methods and concepts of the sociological perspective. Students should walk away from this course with a set of analytical tools to better understand complex social problems. Moreover, students should continue to see themselves as problem solvers as they continue to develop a sense of community responsibility while always eradicating social injustice and practicing social equality/justice.

WS 150 – Racism & Sexism

C. Sheffield -- TR, 2:00 – 3:15

In common with standard sections, this course will examine racism, sexism, heterosexism, and classism looking at current laws, historical documents, academic articles, films, and hearing the personal experiences of other students. Engaging the topics, students will read critically, write on complex topics and work at concept development. Such skill development assignments will prepare students for an intensive undergraduate program regardless of major.