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UNIVERSITY
HONORS
COLLEGE

University Honors College

APRIL 2013

Student Research



The Honors Club was joined by student, Dylan Anderson, at the Lunch in the Lounge on Thursday, March 7th. Dylan is a Jazz Studies major and has chosen the Independent track under the direction of Dr. Susan Dinan. Dr. John Peterman is supervising his thesis work. He has been playing the saxophone since the age of ten and has also had a deep interest in Zen Buddhism, both of which he has worked to integrate into his research.

In his studies, Dylan is looking at jazz as a methodology within the realm of critical social theory in order to designate it a liberating force against societal oppression. With a grant from the Student

Undergraduate Research Program, Dylan was able to conduct research for his thesis in Nepal. He shared a few interesting and adventurous stories about his seven week experience including accounts of navigating public transportation, overcoming the language barrier, and interacting with people he met along the way.

Perhaps most interesting, was the ten day Vipassana Meditation retreat Dylan attended in a monastery. The retreat had a strict program that called for no speaking, ten hours of meditating while sitting in the same position, and one main meal a day. Dylan explained how difficult it was to adjust to the program initially, but

recognized how rewarding it was in the long run. He shared how learning to meditate and spending much time doing so, gave him the opportunity to liberate himself from regular thoughts and mental formations he is exposed to on a regular basis. This experience was very insightful to his research.

Dylan returned from his trip with a wealth of knowledge and experiences, and also with a greater appreciation for the life and opportunities he has been given. He stressed how fortunate he is, and we all are to have the opportunity to attend college and expand our education. He urged students to take advantage of all that college has to offer. Dylan noted that there are wonderful programs available and that with hard work and patience, there is nothing that cannot be imagined, arranged, and accomplished.

The Honors College Returns to Broadway

The Honors Club and Pioneer Players Sponsored a trip to see "The Lion King" on Broadway on Thursday, February 28th. Tickets were available at the Campus Activities Office for only \$20.00 and sold out in a matter of minutes! The Honors Club is planning similar trips for the fall 2013 semester.



Track Time!

Students of all majors interested in understanding how the mind works might find their niche in the Honors Cognitive Science Track! This track offers a unique and flexible program that allows students to approach questions of the mind through the incorporation of varied disciplines such as Anthropology, Neuroscience, Artificial Intelligence, Psychology, and Philosophy. The Track requires students to complete a

total of 15 credits, 9 of which come from 3 designated courses under the program, and the remaining 6 earned at the completion of two semesters of thesis preparation courses.

Among past projects completed by Honors Students of the program are the following titles: *Mental Representation*, *The Philosophical Notion of Representation*, *Philosophy of Mind and Music*, and *Cognitive Implication of Neural Plasticity in Brain Damage*. The varied nature of these

topics clearly demonstrates the opportunity this track offers students to study in their particular area of interest.

For more information about the Cognitive Science Track, please contact the Track Director, Dr. Amy Learmonth at learmontha@wpunj.edu or visit the Honors College Website at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/tracks/cognitive-science.dot>.

News in Student Research

Honors Student, Luis Vaca, presented his Honors thesis project, *Consumer Perceptions of Country of Origin in the Car Industry*, at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference in Philadelphia earlier this month. Luis is a senior set to graduate in May with a degree in Marketing and Global Business. He chose to conduct his research under the Honors Marketing Track with the direction of Dr. Bela Florenthal. Dr. Shan Feng served as his thesis supervisor.



Honors Student, Luis Vaca, at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference

Club Corner



The Honors Club is in the process of conducting executive board elections. Please monitor your email and the Honors College Facebook page for additional information and club announcements.

Honors Week 2013

This year, 78 students completed and presented their thesis projects during Honors Week on April 16th, 17th, and 18th. Faculty and students enjoyed the variety of presentations that represented all tracks and disciplines. Congratulations to all students who completed and presented their research!

A Peek at Honors Week





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