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**WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY**

University Honors College

NOVEMBER 2013

Stories from Students

Under the leadership of Dr. Ronald Verdicchio, Associate Professor of Education and Anthropology, Honors students, Eman Al-Jayeh, Bria Barnes, Abraham Elgindy, Jean Gervais, Kelly Ginart, Philip Gorokhovskiy, Sara Johnson, Amani Kattaya, Megan Perry, Paige Rainville, and Rita VanderStad have been working on a two-year ethnographic field study of Prospect Park, New Jersey.

Prospect Park was founded in 1901 by Dutch settlers who heavily influenced the town's early

structure as well as its cultural and religious practices and observances. In time, however, immigration and migration patterns have brought great diversity to the Borough of Prospect Park. The research team has been investigating the impact social change has had on the community as well as how these changes have impacted its school.

The first year of the study was dedicated to gaining entry into the community and learning about its history. The research team engaged in volunteer activities and

participant observation as well as conducted oral histories and formal interviews with community residents and leaders. Currently, the team is focusing its attention on studying the Prospect Park School. In observing and interviewing teachers, students, and parents, the team hopes to gain a better understanding of the degree of cultural change the community has undergone and how that change has affected education.



The research team



Team members speaking with Mayor Mohamed T. Kairullah



Team Members speaking with Borough residents at Prospect Park Day

“Measure Twice, Cut Once”



Gabriela Salvador is an ambitious Honors student with a creative hobby. From the moment she began making clothing for her dolls, she has had a passion for sewing. That passion, along with a love and understanding of the connections of art and history, led Gabriela to take on historical sewing projects.

With artistic inspiration, Gabriela designs her own patterns, takes measurements, and cuts and divides fabric to make intricate and beautiful representations of historical clothing such as the “Bronzino” Italian Renaissance gown pictured here. She uses period accurate

techniques in sewing and never loses an opportunity to learn about the history of the period in which she is working.

Aside from pursuing a double major in Journalism and Writing, Gabriela is also the curator of the Kearny History Museum and the creator of a sewing blog that chronicles her work and experiences. At the museum, Gabriela has been working to clean up and organize displays of antique Victorian and Edwardian clothing in assuring that the articles are displayed appropriately and accurately. Her blog, pourelavictoire.blogspot.com, documents her learning experiences, projects, and even

includes informative tutorials.

In the future, Gabriela plans to continue her work with historical sewing. Her plans include creating an 1870 Victorian Bustle and a Florentine dress that would have been worn by a lower class woman.

“Measure Twice, Cut Once,” says Gabriela when asked for the advice she would give those pursuing similar projects. Her dedication to historical sewing and learning and skillful handiwork prove that she has done just that.

First Year Seminar Hike

First-year Seminar classes are designed to help new students adjust to the University setting. Students are introduced to important procedures and strategies aimed to help them succeed throughout their college experience. The seminar also provides a fun atmosphere in which students can meet and interact with their peers. Dr. Peterman’s first year seminar class enjoyed doing so on a hike to the summit of High Mountain in September.



Dr. Peterman’s FYS class on a High Mountain Hike

Club Corner

The Honors Club Fall 2013 Apparel orders have been placed. Those who have ordered should monitor their email for important pick-up information.



The Music Track is designed specifically for students pursuing Music degrees under one of the University's existing programs. It does not function as an independent degree, but rather, allows music majors of all levels and interests to pursue music as a liberal art beyond its vocational aspects in a way that will supplement their degree.

To complete the track, students are required to enroll in four semesters of Music Honors Seminars, selected courses

corresponding with a given music program, and a capstone project during their senior year. All completed projects will be presented to the William Paterson Community during Honors Week in April.

In the past, students in the track have pursued a variety of subjects in the field. Project titles include, *The Music of Ralph Towner*, *Aspects of the Music of Sonny Rollins*, *The Modern Jazz Ballad*, and *the Process of Improvisation*. Students have also performed original pieces and

transcribed piano pieces for instrumental ensembles.

For more information about the Music Track, contact the track director, Dr. Jeffrey Kresky, at kreskyj@wpunj.edu or visit the Honors College website at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/tracks/music.dot>.

Knitting Night

On Friday, October 25th, the Honors Club hosted the first Knitting Night of the fall semester. Students had the opportunity to learn to knit and crochet alongside their peers as well as to create their personal contributions to the Honors Coat Drive. Please monitor your e-mail for additional Knitting Night information and upcoming dates.



Honors students at Knitting Night (from left) Ruti Frankel, Alissa Jackson, and Rebecca Wance
Photo courtesy of Rachael Segal

Honors Coat Drive: Last Chance!

We will accept coats no later than Monday, November 18th at noon. We have been informed that due to a fire in Passaic earlier this week, there is a greater need than usual. Please bring your donations of gently worn coats and winter accessories to the Honors Office, Raubinger 154.

Coat Drive donations will benefit the Passaic County Headstart Program. The program is designed to support low-income adults and

children of the area and bridge class divisions. For more information, please contact Honors or visit the Honors College Website. Special thanks to those who have already donated!



Honors Club President, Rebecca Wance, organizing last year's coat drive donations

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Event
11/18/13	12:00 P.M.	Honors Office Raubinger 154	Last Day to drop off Coat Drive Donations
12/3/13	12:30 P. M.	Fourth Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge
12/5/13	3:00 P.M.– 5:00 P.M.	Hobart Manor	Honors Holiday Party
12/15/13	All Day	Honors Office Raubinger 154	Track Student Paperwork due for those presenting at Honors Week

Study Abroad Opportunities



Interested in studying abroad?
Here is an exciting opportunity to consider!

- The University of West Florida and its partner institutions are inviting honors students to apply for the Abbey Experience 2014. This unique

program includes a semester stay in an ancient abbey in France's Pontlevooy village. It gives student's the opportunity to learn actively in pursuing up to fifteen credits in core Liberal Arts courses. Students will also have the opportunity to work closely with faculty mentors and travel

throughout Europe.

- For additional information about the Abbey Experience 2014, please visit the Honors College Website at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/news.dot>

*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/>.