

# WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY



## HONORS COLLEGE NEWS

April 2017

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### Learning from experience

22-year-old Cassandra Beck is an Economics major who will be graduating this May. In the spirit of 'looking out' for current and prospective Honors College students, she has opted to share the story of her journey through college so far.

#### What is the plan after graduation?

I'm still looking for a job and I'm up for anything related to economics and financial consulting. I still can't believe I'm graduating! Time has gone by so incredibly fast.

#### Looking back, what was the most challenging part of your college journey?

The most challenging part has been developing a sense of confidence in myself and ensuring that everything I was doing was worthwhile. Being a part of the Honors College has been a blessing but definitely a lot of hard work. For that reason, I had to find my balance because I was looking to be as involved as possible on campus.



Cassandra Beck

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### Former Honors student returns to campus



*It was my four years at William Paterson where I emerged as a leader. I discovered my purpose in life and was encouraged to pursue it relentlessly. Now, I live every day to lead. I have the opportunity to truly make a difference*

Laura Jo Rieske

Former Honors student, Laura Jo Rieske, gave inspiring remarks at the annual Honors College Banquet held Monday, April 3 in the University Commons Ballrooms. Rieske graduated from William Paterson University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and secondary education. During her tenure at WP, she worked as an Office Assistant in the Honors College, served as a Resident Assistant in High Mountain East and Hillside Hall, and completed her honors thesis through the Cognitive Science track.

Inspired by her active involvement on campus, Rieske pursued a master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Following graduation in 2014, she moved to Maryland to work as a Residence Life Coordinator at Towson University. It is through this work that she has found an outlet for "paying it forward" by encouraging student leaders to create their legacy.

Passionate about authentic leadership and professional development, Rieske is currently pursuing an MBA with a concentration in learning and organizational leadership at the University of Baltimore. She plans to use her work and school experiences to motivate and empower future leaders to pursue their passions and contribute to a better world.

In her free time, Rieske enjoys practicing yoga, exploring hiking trails, and staying connected to friends and family. She reports that she is grateful for her experiences in the Honors College at William Paterson University, and for the opportunity to revisit the people who helped her reach her success.

# WPU Honors Students present their Research at Pittsburgh 2017 Conference

This year's Northeast Regional Honors Conference saw a total of 12 students from William Paterson University Honors College in Attendance.

The 3-day-event which took place from April 6th-9th, was filled with Intelligence, Interaction and fun!



**From the left: Megan Baird, Kayleigh Orocchi, and Amanda Egri**



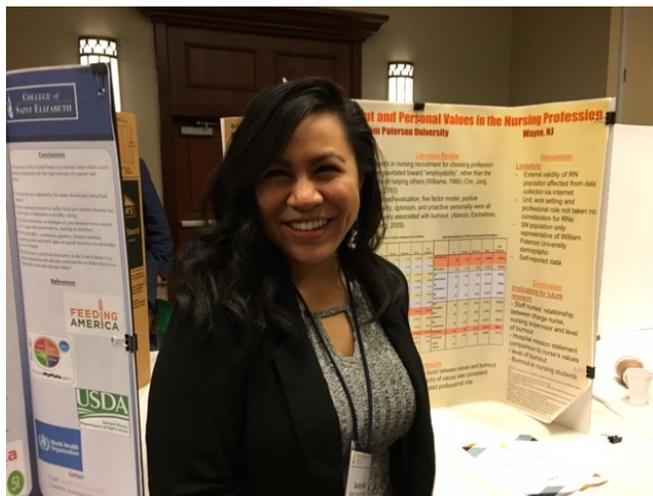
**From the left: Lynda Amichi and Julia MacDonald**



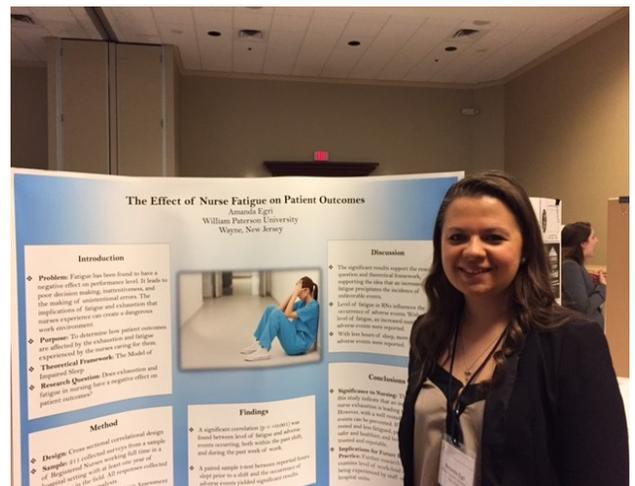
**All the William Paterson University Honors Students at the 2017 NRHC Conference in Pittsburgh**



**From the left: Alissa Lopez, Savannah Crippen, Sarah Wilmote, Megan Baird, Karisa Foreman, Julia MacDonald and Lynda Amichi**



**Xanilyn Red**



**Amanda Egri**

## Honors Week 2017

This year's edition of Honors week held from April 4-6 and a total of 63 Honors Senior presented their thesis projects.

It was an exciting time for the students, their track directors and invited guests.



*Laura Taylor*



*Sylvia Wasserman*



*A cross-section of guests at the Honors Week 2017*



*Fredrik Hagbarth*



*The Graduating Nursing Students pose after their presentations at Honors Week 2017*



*Emmanuel Rousakis*

## Learning from Experience

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#### What were the highlights of your time at the University Honors College?

What stood out for me was getting the opportunity to meet the alumni and professors who have contributed to shaping who I am today. I also feel content knowing that I have grown as a person and equally contribute to people's lives as much as they have contributed to mine.

#### What makes the Honors College stand out from other colleges?

The scholarship is definitely a bonus, but the recognition and opportunities it exposed me to, was amazing. I found myself surrounded with an additional support team of staff and students and loved the opportunities they provided me with in terms of networking, as well as the sense of pride that comes with being a part of a college. Many colleges do not have that, so I count myself blessed.

#### Are there any untapped resources, which you think current Honors College students take for granted?

I think students underestimate the recognition, which comes with being a part of the Honors College. For instance, potential employers who have interviewed me were intrigued by the extensive research that went into my thesis. This among other things makes me grateful for the contribution the Honors College makes to the future of those who become a part of it. The resources, time management and the fact that you are held to a higher standard as an Honors student is priceless

#### Are you nervous about life after graduation?

Yes I am!, I'm a little nervous to be put into the work force and apply all the knowledge I have received in school, but at the same time I know I have been given the hands on skills to work hard, accept criticism and put in as much effort as possible to be a great employee.

#### What tips do you have for those coming behind you?

If you go into any class thinking that, you are not going to get anything out of it, then that is what you will get. You need to go into a class with an open mind and be determined to gain something from that course, no matter how general it may appear. Go in with a positive outlook and you will get the most out of your education.

Also, get as involved as you can on campus, but be careful not to bite off more than you can chew or you will be overwhelmed and not give a 100% to the things that matter the most.

## Honors Banquet 2017

The 2017 Honors banquet took place on April 3, 2017, to celebrate Honors students who have successfully completed their thesis. Projects.



*A cross section of guests at the Banquet*



*From the left: Karisa Foreman & Honors College Director, Barbara Andrew*

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