

THE SQUIRREL SQUIRE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

FALL 2014

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY REMEMBERS EMILEE GAGNON

BETH TEAGUE

This fall Westfield State University's Arnos Maris Gallery housed works remembering alumna Emilee Dawn Gagnon and her mission to fight Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a disease that affected her grandfather. Emilee was hit by a car and killed in Ohio on a cross-country bike ride to raise money and awareness for MS on September 23, 2013, only four months after graduation. Her final actions in life are a testament to what an amazing person Emilee was.

"Emilee's Art Dream: In Her Honor, An Exhibition for MS Awareness" displayed some of Emilee's original works, pieces by faculty, staff, students, and community members in Emilee's honor, and work done by artists living with MS. Jamie Wainright, Chair of the Art Department, described Emilee as "a student who affected many persons' lives with her energy, intellect and talents." Wainright suggested the idea for an art show to the Art Department, and they came up with the idea to live Emilee's dream for MS awareness in honor of her grandfather. Faith Lund, the gallery director, said that it was not easy at first to find pieces by artists impacted by MS, but they did respond with such powerful submissions as the interactive installation



"The Light of Emilee" by Dan Delisle

"The Following Sea" by Lauren Gillette, which encouraged visitors to add their own stories about illness.

Numerous faculty members, students, and alumni friends of Emilee's created pieces to commemorate Emilee and her spirit. A video installation also celebrated Emilee's scholarship with a voice recording of Emilee's Senior Honors Project "Revolutionary Beauty," accompanied by images of the artwork Emilee analyzes in the thesis. The exhibit encom-

passed Emilee's personality, passion, and her humble nature all at the same time.

Honors Program Assistant Director Vanessa Holford Diana said, "That's what all of this is about—Emilee's legacy, remembering her and celebrating her as a role model for our younger students because she really embraced it all."

The November 6 reception was filled with Emilee's friends and family, students, community members, faculty,

artists, and alumni, all of whom were touched by her life. Wainright observed, "It became this rippling effect of energy from students who didn't know her, from faculty who heard about her, from faculty who worked with her and that's the kind of impact she had." After the reception, Ely Library held a ceremony dedicating the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Event Space to honor Emilee's contributions as a former student worker in the library.

Plans are underway for more events in the future to commemorate the amazing life of Emilee Dawn Gagnon and to raise money for the memorial scholarship in her name. WSU will be hosting a Paint and Sip event on Friday, March 27, 2015. For tickets, contact the Honors Program at 413-572-8086. For more information about contributing to the scholarship fund or applying for the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship, please contact Lisa McMahon at the Westfield State University Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1630, Westfield, MA 01086-1630, lmcmahon@westfield.ma.edu or 413-485-7360.

Beth is a senior English and Psychology major from Dracut, MA.

HONORS STUDENTS GO BEYOND



Honors Program Director Dr. Glen Brewster congratulates Nicole Godard.

In December, Westfield State University recognized nine students for their leadership and service with the President's Award for Excellence in Leadership. Each of this year's winners participates in a wide range of on- and off-campus activities. Nicole Godard, of Northfield, Miguel Maria, of Springfield, and Beth Teague, of Tyngsboro, all members of the Honors Program, were among the awardees.

Godard, an English and Secondary Education double major, is President of Sigma Tau Delta English honor society, a member of the Academic Pursuits Club, and a former member of the Quidditch Team.

Her community service efforts include volunteering at Rays of Hope, for the National Day on Writing at Westfield State, and through a literacy project at Westfield South Middle School. "The most effective way to inspire other members to volunteer their time and energy is to lead by example," Godard argues. "As Sigma Tau Delta president, I have promised my members that every moment they volunteer of their own time will be matched by a similar commitment on my part."

Maria, a Political Science and Economics double major, served as an Urban Education student representative and participated in the Washington Center Program internship in Washington, D.C. His community service efforts include volunteering in several political campaigns, including U.S. Sen. Edward Markey's 2013 race, and at Reading Partners, an organization that provides one-on-one tutoring to students who have fallen behind in reading. "I was able to see a young student who had a short attention span and was a year

and a half below grade level catch up," Maria reports. "I actively participated in helping him gain confidence in himself and a deeper love for reading and learning."



Miguel Maria spent the fall semester in Washington, D.C. through the Washington Center Internship Program.

Teague, an English and Psychology double major minor-ing in Theatre, founded the Westfield State Relay for Life Club and serves as President and Team Captain. This past Spring, the club hosted WSU's first Relay for Life, which had 375 participants and raised over \$40,000 (see related sto-



Westfield State University President Elizabeth Preston presents Beth Teague with her award.

ry page 6). Teague is also Co-Director and Vice President of the Musical Theatre Guild, Vice President of Lammers Hall Council, and a member of the Poetry Club. She also developed the Westfield State University International Peer Mentor Program, and has volunteered at the John Carson Road Race and Bark for Life. Teague notes, "One of the most important things I learned was to ask for help. No good leader does everything by herself. A good leader works with other leaders to make something amazing happen."



The Honors Program welcomes Professor Sonya Lawson as Interim Assistant Director for the Spring 2015 Semester. Formerly chair of the Music Department, Professor Lawson has been a member of the Honors Advisory Committee for many years.

Interested in contributing to *The Squirrel Squire*?
Send your story ideas and photos to Professor Sonya Lawson at slawson@westfield.ma.edu.

The Squire Squad

Student Editors and Contributors:

Karolina Bak (Layout Editor), Brenna Closius, Cledia Caberlon, Alexandra Gaspar, Katie Hebert, Fiona Mwariama, Chelsea Orifice, and Beth Teague (Intern).

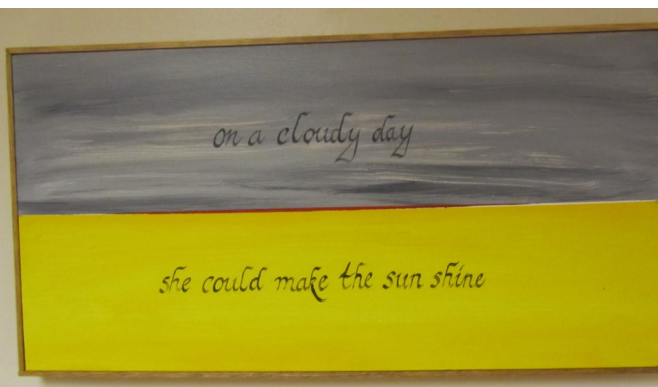
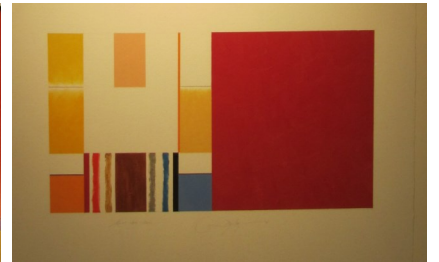
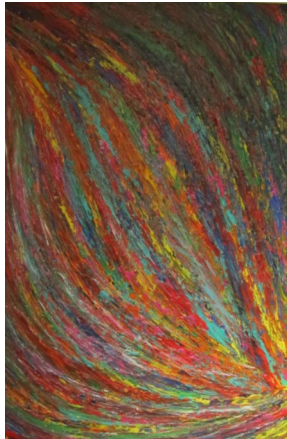
Staff Editors:

Glen Brewster, Vanessa Diana, and Gretchen Konrad.

Get in touch with the Honors Program:

Visit the Honors Center in Mod Hall 103.
Call at (413) 572-8086. Email at honors@westfield.ma.edu.
LIKE US on FACEBOOK! Follow the WSU Honors Facebook page for updates on upcoming events!

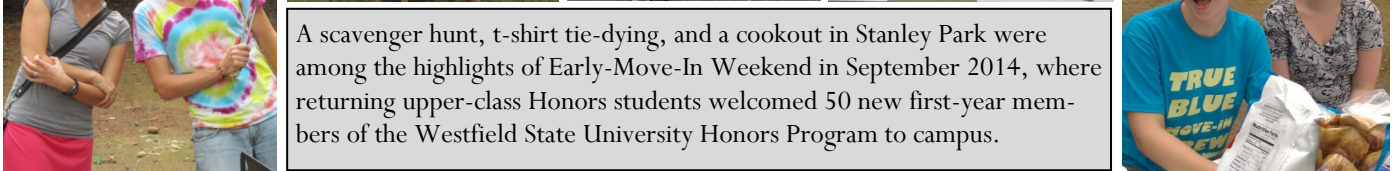
EMILEE'S ART DREAM: IN HER HONOR, AN EXHIBITION FOR MS AWARENESS



KICKING OFF THE SEMESTER IN STANLEY PARK EARLY-MOVE-IN WEEKEND



A scavenger hunt, t-shirt tie-dying, and a cookout in Stanley Park were among the highlights of Early-Move-In Weekend in September 2014, where returning upper-class Honors students welcomed 50 new first-year members of the Westfield State University Honors Program to campus.



COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT COUNCIL ORGANIZES STATEWIDE NETWORKING TRIP

CONNOR JACKSON



Students members of the CHP student council gather at the Boston Science Museum.

The Student Honors Advisory Council (SHAC) is the organizational voice of students in the Honors Program at Westfield State University. Its statewide counterpart is the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP) Student Council, which includes members from Westfield State University. Much like SHAC, the CHP Student Council plans events, trips, and activities to foster networking among Honors students from all Massachusetts public colleges and universities that are part of the CHP consortium. A recent trip was our visit to the Boston Museum of Science. Born from an idea first proposed at the spring 2014 Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference in Niaga-

ra Falls, NY, the trip to the Boston Science Museum included students from five campuses.

While at the museum, we enjoyed viewing exhibits old and new. One moment, we were enjoying optical illusions and interactive health activities and the next, we were observing a massive colony of bees or a family of monkeys scurrying through their homes. And who could forget the giant Tesla Coils blasting out a deafening chorus of the Super Mario Bros. theme song?

All the while, we were organized into groups of students from different universities – cross-campus networking at its best! – and making new friends and educational allies.

After touring in small groups,



Students enjoy lunch at the Cheesecake Factory in Boston.

we came together to tour the Museum's newest addition, the Mayan exhibit. With displays showing examples of architecture, art, clothing, and writing, the immersive exhibit was a fantastic display of a fascinating culture.

After exiting the Mayan exhibit, we endured a light drizzle and cool wind for a short walk to the Cheesecake Factory for a burger, club sandwich, or salad and - of course - a giant slice of cheesecake. The

CHP Student Council (including myself, the Publicity Officer) discussed future plans for the Council and reflected on recent successes. After lunch, we spent the next hour wandering around the exhibits, before heading back to campus.

If cross-campus networking

and going on trips like this sound appealing, consider getting involved in the CHP Student Council. Join us at our roundtable in Gettysburg, PA, at the NRHC Conference in spring 2015, or come along to our spring meeting! And, of course, be ready for more trips like the Boston adventure.

Connor is a junior Psychology major from Southwick, MA.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WRITING CENTERS: PEER WRITING CONSULTANTS PRESENT AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DISNEY WORLD

CHELSEA ORIFICE

Westfield State University's Reading Writing Center peer writing consultants and Honors students Beth Teague, Chelsea Orifice, Emily Ellis, and Paul Falcone along with Reading and Writing Center director, Catherine Savini,

attended this year's International Writing Center Association's Conference in Orlando, Florida.

In order to attend this year's conference, the consultants had to submit proposals by the end of the Spring 2014 semes-

ter. The coordinators of the Conference repeatedly stressed that this year the conference received a record amount of proposals making this year's conference extremely competitive. The Westfield State Writing Cen-

ter, however was accepted for two proposals: ReImagining Tutor Training Methodology, and iWrite: Enhancing Task Based Methods Using iPads.

(Writing Centers, continued on page 16)

HONORS STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HONORS STUDENTS SHINE UNDER I.C.E.

FIONA MWARIAMA

Aside from academic achievements, several of our Honors students have made a substantial impact on our campus through various groups and organizations such as Student Government Association, Lambda Sigma, and our Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (I.C.E.) program. The I.C.E. program offers opportunities for students with developmental disabilities who have gradu-



I.C.E. Coordinator Lyndsey Nunes awards Lauren Nastari with the Peer Mentor of the Semester award.

ated from high school to take college courses and learn skills that will enable a smooth transition into adulthood.

I.C.E students are matched with peer mentors who help them take part in social activities and gain the full college experience. Lyndsey Nunes, I.C.E's Coordinator, often stresses the social aspect of the program and the importance of building friendships with the I.C.E students. Many of our Honors students, including Student Honors Advisory Council officers Lauren Nastari, Ally Davis, Sierra Bias, and Jenny Mitchell, have been some of the program's most dedicated peer mentors. Whether it's through picnics at Stanley Park, group gym classes, homework help, or lunch at the DC, they have

consistently distinguished themselves as I.C.E's best mentors. Last fall, Lauren was recognized as Peer Mentor of the semester. Lauren comments, "My favorite thing would definitely be the students I have met. They always have smiles on their faces and are just so happy to be here that it makes me happy to be here too. Whether they're doing an assignment or just walking around campus, they are so thankful and excited to be a part of a college community that it really makes me appreciate being a part of a college community as well. I also have learned so much from the students and have become such good friends with some of them. When I'm having a stressful day and run into one of them, they always make



I.C.E. student JayCee with Lauren Nastari, Sierra Bias, and Jenny Mitchell at the 2014 I.C.E Halloween party.

me smile just because of all the positive energy and excitement they always have." Our Honors students continue to make lasting contributions on our campus as leaders and positive role models.

Fiona is a sophomore Psychology major from Worcester, MA.

HONORS STUDENTS FIGHTING CANCER

BRENNA CLOSIUS

Last year Honors students Beth Teague and Brenna Closius founded Westfield State University's Relay For Life Club. The idea for the club came from Teague after attending Relay events at other colleges in the area. She thought, "why can't Westfield State get involved?" and that is exactly what the university has done.

Last spring the first Relay For Life of Westfield State University raised over \$40,000 for the American Cancer Society. The event, with over 375 participants, doubled its goal of \$20,000 thanks to Westfield



Brenna Closius and Beth Teague promoting the Great American Smokeout event.

students.

Since then the Relay For Life Club, which has quite a few Honors students among its members, has been active across campus. Events this fall

included a breast cancer awareness night, a bonfire for the Great American Smokeout, and a fundraiser for Soupy for Loopy, a local charity for neuroblastoma research.

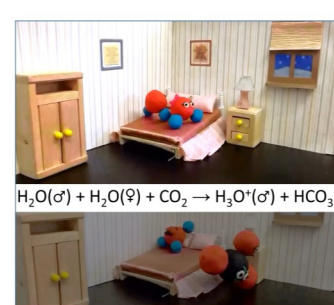
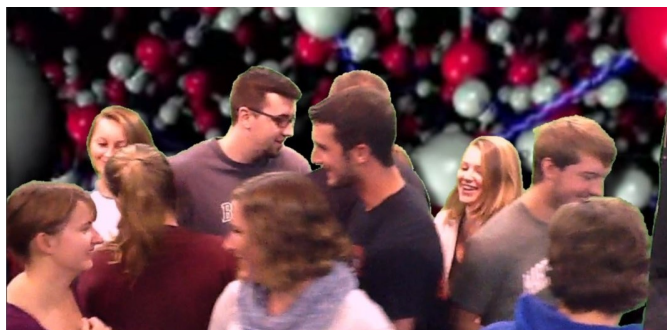
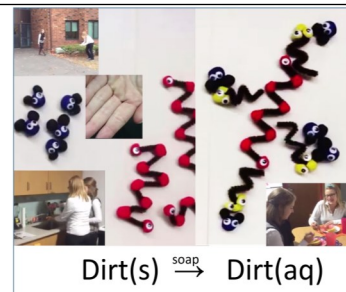
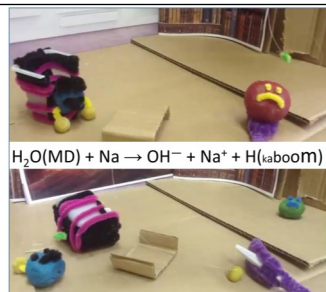
The club is looking forward to holding the second Relay For Life of Westfield State University in the spring 2015 semester. The all-night event will take place April 17 -18 with a lofty goal of \$55,000. Teague, Closius, and the rest of the club have no doubt that the Westfield State University community can reach this goal. If you're interested in joining the fight against cancer visit, relayforlife.org/wsuma to sign up or donate!

Brenna is a senior Political Science major from Niantic, CT.

UPPER-LEVEL INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS SEMINARS



Beyond our Borders: Exploring Texts from Africa, Asia, and the Americas: Can we get a view of the world through the perspectives of others? What does it mean to have cross-cultural conversations? What are some of the ways in which we are all connected? These are some of the interdisciplinary global studies questions Professor Carol Bailey's Fall 2014 Honors seminar, *Beyond Our Borders*, explored through a study of literature, songs, films, history, sociology and political science. The class traveled beyond our campus borders, visiting a political science class at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst taught by Prof. Carlene Edie and an Africana studies class at Brown University, where they enjoyed a lecture by Anthony Bogues (above top center with Mat Tryon). While at Brown, students also met scholars Françoise Hamlin and Keisha-Khan Perry, whose book they had read for class (above top right signing a student's copy) and had lunch at a Providence restaurant before returning to Westfield.



The Art and Science of Molecular Animation: Fascination with the weirdness of outer space is at the core of many science fiction movies. Inner space (the world of atoms and molecules) has plenty of weirdness to offer as well, for example constant motion of particles, largely empty space, and sticky molecules. In Professor Karsten Theis' Fall 2014 Honors seminar, *The Art and Science of Molecular Animation*, students created 3D molecular animations exploring some of the science at the atomic scale and connecting it with the human scale we experience daily with our own senses. Students pretend to be water molecules (above top left) during a visit to the WSU TV studio. The green screen technique (above bottom left) is used to change the background to a movie showing models of water molecules. A glimpse of the four stop-motion movie projects students created is pictured above right.

HONORS STUDENTS GO GLOBAL

KROSNO, POLAND, GATEWAY TO EUROPE

CLEDIA CABERLON



Cledia Caberlon in Krosno, Poland.

When I came to college I had two goals before graduation. The first goal was that I wanted to be a double major, and the second was that I wanted to study abroad. During my first semester junior year I realized that although I was already a double major, I had not looked into places to study abroad. I had, however, been saving money every summer because I knew that it was something that I wanted to do before I graduated. I then started looking at options through the International Programs Office. Since I am an Italian citizen I decided to apply for the Florence program. I was sure I was going to Italy for my second semester.

When I mentioned this exciting plan to my friends, two of them decided to come with me, which was much better than my original plan of going by myself. The next step was going to the Financial Aid Office and figuring out the cost of the program. As they broke down the cost of living and tuition, I almost started crying; my dream was being taken away from me. All of my savings were not enough; I feared I would not be able to afford

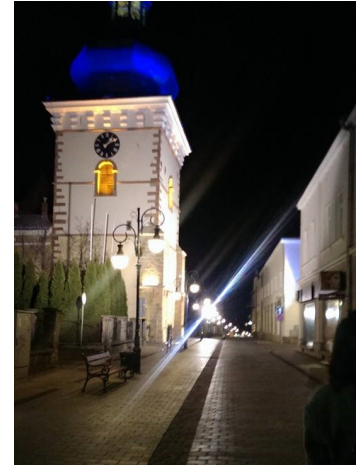


WSU students visit Paris, France, during their semester in Poland.

studying abroad. That is when the International Programs staff offered me a more affordable option: through an exchange program with WSU, I could attend Krosno State Col-

lege in Poland, pay tuition and fees to Westfield State, and enjoy free room and board at Krosno. I originally did not know much about Poland, but the cost was so affordable that I would actually save money from studying abroad! Thanks to the exchange rate and the cost of living in Poland, \$1 triples its worth there, so my savings would go a long way. It was the perfect program. The next step was convincing my friends to join me in Poland instead of Florence. It required a lot of talking, but eventually they were in!

I had the best time of my life in Poland. The people are seriously the nicest people I have ever met. Also I made some of my best friends there. I miss it everyday; it is absolutely a beautiful country, with amazing food and drinks. The meal plan that the school gives us is at a local restaurant, which is to die for! The locals are excited to meet people from the United States, and we even got to teach some English conversation classes while we were there. Finally with all the money we saved we went to 6 other countries, spending 3-5 days in each country. We went to Hungary, Italy, Holland,



Old Town, Krosno.

France, England, and Greece. We also spent three weekends in Krakow, and we constantly visited Rzeszow, which is a big city just one hour from Krosno. The last month in Poland we could not even talk about leaving because it would make us so upset. Going to Poland was the best experience I could ever expect from my study abroad experience. I would not change anything about it. I encourage students considering studying abroad to research the program at Krosno State. I cannot wait to go back.

Cledia is a senior Psychology and Ethnic and Gender Studies double major from Lowell, MA.

Interested in broadening your horizons?

The International Programs Office can answer your questions about Study Abroad and National Exchange Programs.

For more information, visit their office in Parenzo 130 (Lobby) or email them at ipo@westfield.ma.edu.

Start planning your Fall 2015 schedule now. Early Registration Advising takes place from February 17 - March 24.

Early registration for Honors students is March 25. Read your email for important information and updates about Priority Registration. Stop by the Honors Center to check out upcoming Honors course offerings.

HONORS STUDENTS GO SOUTH

HONORS STUDENTS TAKE ON DISNEY

ALEX GASPAR AND KATIE HEBERT

Although our Disney College Program didn't truly begin until summer 2014, it was October 2013 when we realized that this journey was one we wanted to take. The application had three parts—we began with a basic information application, which was followed by a web-based interview, and finally we ended the process with a nerve-wracking phone interview. After we completed the three application steps, our fate was in the hands of Disney. We waited three long weeks before receiving the email saying, "congratulations."

After experiencing a mild freak out and some happy tears, both of us decided to accept our admissions into the Disney College Program. Katie applied for and accepted the fall advantage program, which runs from May to January. Alex applied for the fall program, which runs from August to January. After our acceptance, the only things left for us to do were to find roommates and get ready to live in Walt Disney World. When we were accepted, we were given our roles. Alex was accepted into custodial, and Katie was accepted into quick service food and beverage. Neither are glamorous jobs, but we were both grateful to be accepted, considering the

low acceptance rate of the program.

Katie describes her experience: "Quick service food and beverage" means I could have been working at any restaurant in the parks, as well as any of the outdoor vending. I didn't find out where I would be placed where until I got to Orlando in May 2014. I found out I would be working at a restaurant called Restaurantosaurus in Animal Kingdom. I was ecstatic when I found out because I really wanted to be in Animal Kingdom, my favorite park. My coworkers, leaders, and coordinators alike all became part of my family there. Restaurantosaurus felt like home, and I am so lucky to have been able to work there. I was also given an opportunity to work in Epcot for a few months for the Food and Wine Festival, which I gladly accepted because it gave me an opportunity to experience something new. This festival ran from September through November, and I sold food, wine, and beer in marketplaces that represent different countries, like Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea. Now, both Animal Kingdom and Epcot felt like home to me and I was so lucky to have been able to work in both amazing places.

Alex describes her experi-



Alex and Katie embrace each other along with their Disney experience.

ence: When I found out that I was offered a position in "custodial," I had mixed emotions. Obviously I was thankful that I had been accepted, but I had no idea what to expect from my role. However, after doing some thorough research, I discovered that people only had positive things to say about it. I worked at World Showcase in Epcot, and I could not be happier! World Showcase is an area of the park that represents many different countries and cultures, and I loved getting to experience that every time I went to work. I also got to work during the Food and Wine Festival, where 36 different countries were repre-

sented. In the custodial role I had a lot of guest interaction; people were constantly asking for directions to different places around the park, and I am glad that they saw me as a reliable resource. My coworkers have become some of my best friends. I was honored to work in such a great location where I was immersed in different cultures every day.

Although we worked a lot, there was plenty of time to play in the parks. Our days off were mostly spent going to the Disney Parks as guests, since one of the many perks of working for Disney is free admission. There was always something to do, and we left in January still not having done everything. We also enjoyed exploring Florida outside of Disney, like the different beaches. All in all, Katie and I both felt incredibly lucky to have been chosen for this program. We learned important life skills like communication and work ethic. This program has been life changing and it is an amazing opportunity for anyone who dreams of working for Walt Disney World!

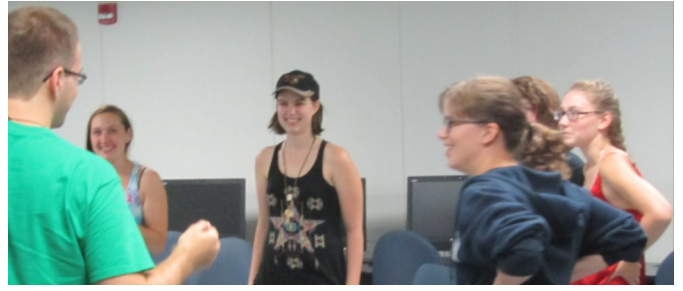
Alex is a sophomore Environmental Science major from Andover, MA.

Katie is a Biology major from Leominster, MA.

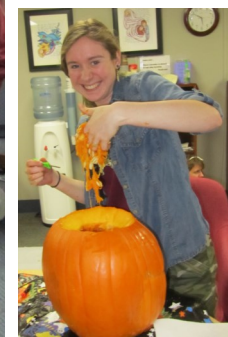
Interested in finding out more about the Disney College Program?

Contact Denise Hughes, faculty in Economics and Management (dhughes@westfield.ma.edu) or Dr. Carlton Pickron, Vice President of Student Affairs (cpickron@westfield.ma.edu).

IN THE HONORS CENTER



The Honors Center hosts social gatherings for Honors students from Early Move-In icebreakers and a pumpkin-carving party organized by SHAC to a stress reduction and relaxation session and everyone's favorite, the end-of-semester Chinese dinner.



IN THE HONORS CENTER



Alyssa Deragon (above) shows off her organizational skills awaiting a meeting with her Senior Honors Project committee.



During the stressful final exam season Student Honors Advisory Council members invited Susan McNamara (left) of the Movement Science Department to lead a much-needed Stress Reduction and Relaxation Techniques session. After discussing the importance of sleep, nutrition, and exercise, McNamara led the group in breathing and movement exercises designed to reduce anxiety, increase alertness, and lift the mood. Plans are underway to repeat the session next semester.

IN AND OUT OF THE HONORS CENTER



From our welcome back reception, to pizza at SHAC meetings, commuter brunch to end-of-semester Chinese dinner, Honors students, staff, and faculty bond over meals any chance we get.



WSU Musical Theatre Guild's Production of 9 to 5

- Honors students:
Alyssa Bourke
Brenna Closius
Rachel Cofsky
Jessica Collette
Will MacKinnon
Chelsea Orifice
Jennifer Sanders
Connor Swan
Beth Teague

HONORS STUDENTS OUT AND ABOUT



The Student Honors Advisory Council, or SHAC, plans events and trips for education, fun, bonding, and stress relief. In September, SHAC organized a trip to the Big E - Eastern States Exposition - in West Springfield, MA. In December, students traveled to Deerfield, MA, to visit Yankee Candle and the Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory.



Honors Design Fundamentals: Prof. David Shapleigh's class visited the Mt. Holyoke College Art Museum, where Director John Stomberg provided a tour of the exhibition "Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation Collection," along with highlights of the college's permanent collection. Discussion provided further insight into the Minimalism movement, which students had studied in the course.

CONGRATULATIONS, COMMONWEALTH HONORS SCHOLARS

FALL 2014 SENIOR HONORS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS



Nicole Godard



Jennifer Holley



James Madigan



Amber Pettell



Jessica Young



Nicole and her committee members.



Jennifer and her project advisor.



Jim and his committee members.



Amber and her committee members.



Jessica and her committee members.

The designation of Commonwealth Honors Scholars is awarded to students who complete a minimum of four Honors courses (at least one upper-level Honors seminar) with a B or higher, maintain an overall GPA of 3.30 or higher, and complete a six-credit, individually designed Senior Honors Project (SHP). Listed below are recipients, their major(s), their SHP titles, and their Project Advisors.

Nicole Godard: English, *“She Will Be A Poet” in a “Hundred Years’ Time”: The Feminine “other” in the Literary Canon*, Dr. Glen Brewster.

Jennifer Holley: Movement Science, *Adherence to Sport Injury Rehabilitation Programs*, Dr. Julie DeMartini.

James Madigan: English, *Great Power, Great Responsibility: Challenging the Adolescent-Adult*

Age Binary in The Amazing Spider-Man, Dr. Sophia Sarigianides.

Amber Pettell: Communication, *Finding What Matters: Comparing Public and Professional Perceptions of the Elements of Journalism*, Dr. Diane Prusank.

Jessica Young: Mathematics and Economics, *Exploration into Birkhoff’s Algebraic Structure Problem*, Dr. Maureen Bardwell.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT SENIOR HONORS PROJECTS? CONTACT DR. BREWSTER, HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR, OR DR. LAWSON, INTERIM ASSISTANT HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR, OR STOP BY HONORS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

HONORS PROGRAM ALUMNI BRUNCH HOMECOMING WEEKEND



Honors Program faculty and staff and WSU administrators and Board members welcomed alumni back to campus at the first Honors Program Homecoming Brunch in October of 2014. Alumni, we want to hear from you! Like us on Facebook and send us your news!



HONORS PROGRAM INFORMATION AND EVENTS

STUDENT HONORS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Student Honors Advisory Council (SHAC) acts as a liaison between Honors students and administration. SHAC allows Honors students to be heard in an open and constructive way. In addition to addressing student concerns, the council plans fun events throughout the year. Have ideas for programming or just want to find out more about SHAC? Contact: Connor Jackson at cjackson4857@westfield.ma.edu.

SPRING 2015 SHAC OFFICERS

President: Connor Jackson
Vice-President: Lauren Nastari
Secretary: Jenny Mitchell
Treasurer: Randi Lemenager
Publicity: Fiona Mwariama
Historian: Mikayla Fucillo
Commuter Rep: Irina Znakharchuk
1st-year Rep: Helena Rheault

GETTYSBURG - BOUND!

CONGRATULATIONS TO HONORS STUDENTS PRESENTING THEIR WORK AT THE ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE IN APRIL 2015!

Chelsea Baker	Jennifer Boyd	Michelle Coombs	Jessica Coons	Jennifer Daltorio	Rebecca Glennie
Nicole Godard	Connor Jackson	Jim Madigan	Anthony Rascati	Sara Riordan	Kelly Steele
Beth Teague	Irina Znakharchuk				



Save the date: Paint and Sip to benefit
 the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship
 Friday, March 27 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Scanlon Loughman Living Room
 For tickets or more information contact the Honors Program at
 (413)572-8086 or gkonrad@westfield.ma.edu



(Writing Centers, continued from page 5)

Peer writing Consultant Chelsea Orifice was accepted into the conference for her research using iPads in the writing center. This research was conducted through individual sessions in which Orifice used the iPad apps she was testing with students and asked for feedback. The project, iWrite: Enhancing Task Based Methods Using iPads, stressed the importance of using both paper and pencil methods and using the technology available for students, while avoiding using technology for technology's sake. The focus apps of this session were IdeaSketch, a mind mapping and outlining app, and TopNotes, a pdf annotation app. The project was very well received by the audience, and Orifice describes the



Peer Writing Tutors take a break from the conference to visit Disney.

experience as an unforgettable opportunity for her undergraduate career.

Teague, Orifice, Ellis, Falcone, and Professor Savini also presented a project on reforming the typical tutor-

training methods used in writing centers. During the Fall 2013 semester Professor Savini "threw out the book," and created a tutor training process that was rooted in community engagement. The peer writing consultants, who all currently work at the Reading and Writing Center, developed different projects, which they presented at IWCA: the International Peer Mentor Program, a program which was formalized and fine-tuned by writing consultants, and a proposal for a Veteran's Lounge. Both projects are still alive at WSU a full year after the class ended. The presentation at IWCA focused on the fact that the writing consultants were left to their own devices and were forced to research various new types of writing and help each other

develop and polish a finished product within an unfamiliar genre, a very important component of what a peer consultant must do.

The conference on its own was an incredible professional opportunity for the peer writing consultants. Every student attended other sessions that have left them thinking about writing centers in new ways. A few sessions even helped to shape both Emily Ellis and Chelsea Orifice's Senior Honors Projects. Not to mention, the students were allowed to go to Downtown Disney, Magic Kingdom, and Epcot during the evenings. All in all a terrific experience that the tutors will never forget.

Chelsea is a junior English major from Enfield, CT.