

THE SQUIRREL SQUIRE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2015

THE JOURNEY TO SPAGHETTYSBURG: NRHC CONFERENCE 2015

HALEY BATCHELDER



Honors students and Dr. Brewster at the NRHC in Gettysburg, PA.

Are you on the fence on attending next year's Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference with the Honors Program? Well, this year's participants encourage everybody who is considering attending to apply. This year's conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, or Spaghettysburg Pencilskirtvania, as it came to be called by the end of the weekend, saw seventeen Westfield State Honors Program students, accompanied by Honors Director Dr. Glen Brewster, from April 9-12 take on this historic city.

The conference is an opportunity for Honors students to present a piece of research they have completed in one of several forms: from papers to presentations to poster displays, each student brought forth his or her individual research to other students and faculty from around the region.

Student and conference attendee Jessica Coons praises the academic component and

focus of the conference, saying, "when you think about these conferences you think about the opportunity to learn and grow as an individual, but it's so humbling being around peers who have incredibly intelligent things to share." She explains, "you can hear your own ideas validated in what they're saying, but they can also give you insight into a perspective or topic that you might otherwise brush off."

NRHC participants hailing from Westfield State praised the opportunity the conference gave them to broaden their knowledge. As Coons explains, the conference provides each attendee with an opportunity to not only share your own thoughts but expand your wisdom by learning from other students who are just as eager to learn.

Aside from the conference itself, participants found time to explore the city of Gettysburg by visiting historic attractions such as the Gettysburg Battlefields. Senior Beth

Teague says that "the battlefields were incredibly eye-opening. It is difficult to grasp the fact that so many people died on that stretch of land over the course of only three days. Standing among the graves of the soldiers in the spot where Abraham Lincoln called a nation divided to make peace was a humbling experience." With a desire to learn, the students found it a privilege to see historic landmarks in person.

By the end of the fun-filled and educational weekend, strangers left as friends. Each participant learned something valuable about his or her topic of interest and found that the travel and chance to stay in a close group all weekend allowed new connections to form. The group came back with new friends, inside jokes and countless memories that

they were eager to share with those back at Westfield. Three-time NRHC attendee Chelsea Baker praised the opportunity to make connections with both fellow Westfield students and other students in attendance. Says Baker, "I shared stories and spent time with so many new faces, which was really awesome!"

Michelle Coombs, first-time NRHC attendee, says the Gettysburg conference "set a high standard for any future conference" she attends. Says Coombs, "I encourage any student who has reservations about attending a conference to consider stepping outside their comfort zone and go to one, for they surely won't regret it!"

Haley is a junior English major from Hopkinton, MA.



Conference participants enjoy dinner together at a Gettysburg restaurant. More photos on p. 6.

HONORS STUDENTS GET INVOLVED AND HAVE FUN

THE STUDENT HONORS ADVISORY COUNCIL: SHAC IT OUT!

HALEY BATCHELDER

Are you looking to get more involved on campus? Do you want to meet new people who share your interests? Well then check out the Student Honors Advisory Council!

The Student Honors Advisory Council (SHAC) is a group on campus run by and comprised of Westfield State's Honors students that works to interact with the campus and community. The council has spent time addressing a variety of issues. For example, during a recent semester they collected and shipped boxes of goods to a student who was unable to walk at graduation due to his deployment. Currently, they are putting together a plan in order to participate in the Save the Globe initiative.

But it's not all serious. There are multiple trips and events

planned by SHAC to engage the students in the Honors Program. Some of these events include: a pumpkin carving night during Halloween, off-campus trips to the Butterfly Conservatory and the Yankee Candle Company in Deerfield and one of the most popular events, the end-of-semester Chinese Dinner.

The council meets biweekly, this year at 5 pm on Thursdays. This time is open to change, however, based on what works best for most of the members. And while there is an Executive Board of eight members, all Honors students are encouraged to get involved and have a say in what the Honors Program brings to this campus!

So why should you join SHAC? When publicist Mi-

kayla Fucillo is asked what she likes most about SHAC, she says, "my favorite part is knowing I can make a difference on this campus. It is also wonderful to be a part of a group that has members who are similar to who I am." SHAC is open to any students with similar goals and is a great opportunity to get in-

involved. Fucillo says, "it is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow Honors students and make some great friends." So make the most of your time here at Westfield State University and check out SHAC!

Haley is a junior English major from Hopkinton, MA.



SHAC officers for the Fall 2014 - Spring 2015 Academic Year.

SHAC OFFICERS for Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Co-Presidents: Sierra Bias and Connor Jackson

Vice President: Lauren Nastari

Secretary: Randi Lemenager

Treasurer: Helena Rheault

Co-Historians: Isabelle Harker and Jenny Mitchell

Publicist: Mikayla Fucillo

Commuter Representative: position open

First-year Representative: Helena Rheault - F'15

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 want to find out more about SHAC?

Contact Sierra Bias at sbias8256@westfield.ma.edu

or Connor Jackson at cjackson4857@westfield.ma.edu.

The Squire Squad

Student Editors and Contributors: Haley Batchelder (intern) and Karolina Bak (Layout Editor).

Alumni Contributor: Lauren Joyce.

Staff Editors: Glen Brewster, Vanessa Diana, Sonya Lawson (S'15) and Gretchen Konrad.

Interested in contributing to *The Squirrel Squire*?
Send your story ideas and photos to Professor
Vanessa Diana at vdiana@westfield.ma.edu.

Get in touch with the Honors Program:

Visit the Honors Center in Mod Hall 103.

Call (413) 572-8086. Email at honors@westfield.ma.edu.

LIKE US on FACEBOOK!

Follow the Westfield State Honors Facebook page for updates on upcoming events!



(squirrel art courtesy of Prof. E. Stassinis)

HONORS STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PAINT AND SIP EVENT CELEBRATES THE MEMORY OF EMILEE GAGNON, CLASS OF 2013

VANESSA DIANA



Painters get inspiration for their next brush strokes from Prof. Lund's slide.

Student Honors Advisory Council (SHAC) officers worked with the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Westfield State Foundation to plan a March 2015 Paint and Sip fundraising event in Loughman Living Room. 64 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members enjoyed appetizers and drinks as they settled in to express their creativity. Professor Faith Lund of the Art Department, with the help of current and returning art majors, led the sold-out crowd of

participants through the process of painting a Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired flower. Members of SHAC thought a painting party would be the

perfect way to honor Emilee Gagnon, Commonwealth Honors Scholar class of 2013. Emilee was an academically gifted, creative and passionate young woman who majored in Art history with minors in French and Ethnic and Gender Studies. Emilee's colorful spirit - epitomized by her paintings and commitment to art - inspired the crowd to create their own paintings and to show their support for the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship Fund. SHAC members coordinated student volunteers and worked on planning and outreach to the

Campus Activities Board, Student Government Association, Residential Life, fellow students, and sponsors. Thanks to their hard work, the fundraising event brought us one big step closer to our goal of establishing the memorial scholarship in perpetuity. SHAC members are determined to spread the word about Emilee's legacy at Westfield State so that future students can be inspired by her example. Contributions can be made to the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship by sending a check, made payable to the "Westfield State Foundation, Inc." with "Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship" written in the memo line, to: Westfield State University Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 1630 Westfield, MA 01086-1630.



Prof. Lund instructs participants in the art of adding depth to their paintings.

Professor Vanessa Diana, Assistant Director of the Honors Program, chairs the Emilee Dawn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship Committee.



Painters proudly display their finished "O'Keeffe-inspired masterpieces."

HONORS STUDENTS GO GLOBAL

STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

HALEY BATCHELDER



Students take a refreshing break during J-term in Puerto Rico.

Why should Honors students take advantage of the study abroad programs that are offered by Westfield State University? A few peers have shared their opinions after having the opportunity to experience another culture by taking a J-Term course through Westfield State's Go Global International Education Program, with sites throughout the world. Students have the chance to spend two weeks immersed in another country, learning about a new culture, picking up a new language and completing field-related course work, all while working alongside fellow students. I talked to three Honors students about their experiences abroad, and they all insist that traveling truly enriches the college experience.

Emily Ellis, a junior Education major, attended the J-Term course in Puerto Rico geared towards Education majors with an emphasis on service learning. During the

two week trip, the students were enrolled in a Spanish Language Immersion Program at the Institute for Spanish Language Acquisition, based on their Spanish speaking skill level. This course helped their understanding of Spanish grow immensely in the two weeks spent in Puerto Rico. "By the end of the first week there," says Emily, who started in a beginner level's Spanish course, "I was able to actually understand some of the Spanish that I was hearing in the community around me when we went on excursions."

Another aspect of the trip included working with a local school/rehabilitation center to help the teachers prepare for the students to come back to school. When the kids returned to school, our Westfield State students were able to work with them on different activities to help them learn.

The trip wasn't all work, however. A portion of the time was spent experiencing

both the beauty and culture of Puerto Rico. "We got to explore Puerto Rico," says Emily. "The El Yunque Rainforest was absolutely gorgeous. Celebrating the island's traditional holiday of Three King's Day, which, in Puerto Rico, is a major highlight of the Christmas season, "was so much fun. Getting to visit the old forts of San Juan to learn about history was really interesting; it was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had."

Another popular J-Term course location is Costa Rica. I talked to two students who went on this trip this past winter break, Helena Rheault and Naomi Cosmus; both are involved in the science programs at Westfield State. The



Cloud bridge in Costa Rica.

course offered for this trip, Tropical Ecology, was perfect for their fields of study. A typical day in the "classroom" involved visiting different ecosystems in Costa Rica: a rainforest, dry forest, and cloud forest. While there, they were able to observe the variety of wildlife and plant life in order to conduct individual research. "We got up

close and personal with bats, venomous snakes, frogs, tarantulas, and all sorts of other creatures," Helena tells me. "We saw macaws, monkeys and sloths, along with other wild animals. At one point, we mist-netted for birds and got to hold them." Other activities of the week included snorkeling at the beach, zip lining in the cloud forest and hiking across cloud bridges in the canopy.

This trip included a large focus on the culture of Costa Rica as well. Both of the girls shared with me a long list of the experiences they were able to be a part of, which included: going on a chocolate tour and an organic coffee farms tour, making local homemade ice cream, cooking food at a local home, participating in a scavenger hunt in town, eating at various restaurants, taking a Latin dance class and walking around the towns exploring what they had to offer.

Helena and Naomi both praise the effectiveness of this trip, explaining the value of what they learned by having this hands-on experience. "I learned so much about other ways of life, how forests interact, how ecosystems change based on environmental factors," says Cosmus. "I learned how each individual in an ecosystem has a specific role that cannot be replaced by another

(Study Abroad Experience, continued on p. 5)

HONORS PROGRAM ACCEPTED STUDENTS LUNCHEONS



Honors faculty and current students talk with prospective students and their parents at the Accepted Student Lunches in April for students who have been accepted into the Honors Program for Fall 2015 but who have not yet made their college decisions. These sessions usually convince the students to join the program!



(Study Abroad Experience, continued from p. 4)

er, the extensive amount of adaptation that plants and animals have made over the years and the importance of reforestation, biodiversity, and conservation.” Furthermore, she notes the advantages it

gives to Honors students looking to study abroad in some capacity. “There are so many things still unknown about the forest habitats in Costa Rica and the wildlife there that it is not hard to find something interesting and relevant to study (for a Senior Honors Project).”

These two young women also took advantage of the connections that can be made on a study abroad trip, as they are now close friends. “The experience was by far the best of my life,” says Helena. “I am so grateful that I decided to take advantage of the opportunity and would highly rec-

ommend that everyone go on some kind of study abroad experience because it is so life changing.”

Haley is a junior English major from Hopkinton, MA.



Prof. Parshall and students gather for a photo during J-term in Costa Rica.

Interested in studying abroad or in another state?

The International Programs Office can answer your questions about Study Abroad, Exchange Programs, Short-Term Study Abroad Programs, and National Exchange Programs.

For more information, visit their office in Parenzo Hall lobby, Room 130.

HONORS STUDENTS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

MASSACHUSETTS STATEWIDE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Over 70 Westfield State University students presented their work at the 21st Annual Massachusetts Undergraduate Research Conference at UMass, Amherst on April 24, 2015. The students were sponsored by 27 faculty and staff from all disciplines and departments who helped them develop their impressive work. While the conference is not restricted to Honors students, well over half the participants from Westfield State were members of the Honors Program. Students gave presentations on work ranging from versions of their first-year composition research papers to their Senior Honors Projects, in either oral presentations in panels or individual or group presentations with posters.



HONORS STUDENTS AND PROFESSOR BREWSTER TRAVELING TO AND EXPLORING GETTYSBURG FOR THE NRHC CONFERENCE



HONORS STUDENTS VISIT THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM



Honors courses have curricular enhancements including field trips, performances and guest speakers. Prof. Aaron Reyes' spring 2015 Honors General Oceanography class toured the New England Aquarium in Boston in March. The students learned about many aspects of marine biology and wrote about their favorite exhibits at the museum as a class project.



HONORS STUDENTS AND THE ARTS

MUSIC AND THEATRE AND ART, OH MY!

HALEY BATCHELDER

When they aren't studying, Honors Students are involved in a variety of activities. Take a look at where you can find our students participating in the arts at Westfield State, both in and out of the classroom. Students dance, act, sing, perform music, design sets and costumes, and write poetry and plays. Students also write for and edit the campus literary and arts journal, *Persona*, and the campus newspaper, *The Westfield Voice*, and host shows and perform on the campus radio station, WSKB.

Lauren Guertin is a part of the music ministry at the Interfaith Center.



Chelsea Orifice is a member of the AcaOWLETTES, an all-female singing group, and Secretary and Producer for the Musical Theatre Guild.

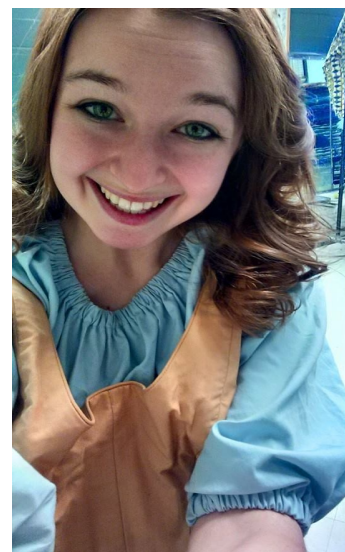


Emily Ellis is a part of the Westfield State Dance Company, for which she is one of the junior representatives.



Tricia Coughlin is also a member of the Dance Company.

Beth Teague is the Vice President of the Musical Theatre Guild and last semester hosted a radio show on WSKB.



HONORS STUDENTS AND THE ARTS

Christina DiVirgilio is a member of the Westfield State Dance Company.



Will MacKinnon, a Music minor, is the beatboxer for the Night Owls a cappella group and is a member of the Musical Theatre Guild.



Erin Meany is a member of the Musical Theatre Guild.



Stephanie Carvalho is a member of the Night Owls a cappella group and the Music Society.



Mitchell Benedetti is a radio host for WSKB. He hosts a segment called The Boys Room with his two best friends on Sundays from 8-10 pm.



Anne Stack is also a member of the Night Owls a cappella group.

HONORS STUDENTS AND THE ARTS

Amy Hemeon is a member of the AcaOWLETTES.



Rachel Cofsky is a Communication and Art dual major. She is also involved with the Student Theatre Association and the Musical Theatre Guild.



Art Minors

Jennifer Daltorio (Communication major)
Julia Suheena (Computer Science major)
Julienne Gerner (Psychology major)



Music Majors

Emily Calano **Carolyn Dufraine**
Alana Dunham **Kathryn Matrishon**



Theatre Arts Majors

LeeAnne Brown **Rebecca O'Leary**
Desire Rivera (featured right)

Theatre Arts Minors

Holly Brouillette (Biology major)
David Clark (Biology major)



HONORS ALUMNA LOOKS AHEAD

VIEW YOUR MAJOR AS AN ADVANTAGE, NOT A LIMITATION

LAUREN JOYCE



Lauren enjoys the animals during the farm day petting zoo event at her job.

For someone like myself, who loved every minute of college - class time included - the days following graduation were liberating, yet terrifying. Graduating college is undoubtedly an enormous accomplishment, but one that comes with the unavoidable question, “what’s next?” The reality is that while we all must move on to the next chapter, determining what this will consist of isn’t so simple. I know from my own experience that deciding “what’s next” can be so hard that you find yourself clinging

to the past four years. Having found my own way, I am confident in saying that there is a way to alleviate the stress and anxiety that comes with closing one chapter and beginning another.

During my transition into “the real world,” I found comfort and inspiration from a book called, *I Just Graduated College... Now What?*

Through interviews with successful individuals whose paths weren’t quite as direct as one might expect, the author of this book relays to its readers that it’s ok to step back and take some time to really figure out what inspires you. I believe that all too often, college graduates get swept up in the excitement and expectation of jumping right in and finding the “perfect job.” I myself experienced this sense of expectation and pressure. Graduating with a degree in Psychology, a major that already has a deceptive reputation for not leading to many jobs at the bachelor level, I put a lot of pressure on myself to have it

all figured out. The reality was, I had nothing figured out. Thanks to the support of my family, the encouraging stories in the book I read, and helpful resources at the Westfield State Career Center, I was able to take some time to reflect upon my own goals and interests, explore my options, and find a next step that felt just right.

Just after the New Year, I accepted and started a job that I now love. Working as an Activity Coordinator at Riverwoods Retirement Community in Exeter, New Hampshire, I get the opportunity each day to positively impact the lives of elderly individuals, while gaining first hand experience with challenges of aging. Although working with the elderly is not something I expected for myself, I can’t imagine doing anything more rewarding at this stage in my life. While working in Activities may not be the first occupation that comes to mind for a Psychology major, I can say that my background in psychology supplements my suc-

cess at work each and every day. I know and appreciate how lucky I am, because just as difficult as it can be to find a job right out of college, it is often most difficult to find one that is truly rewarding. But I can assure you it is not impossible.

For those of you who will be graduating soon, and even those who are lucky enough to still have a few years of college left, I would like to share with you my words of wisdom. While graduation day is inevitable, don’t waste your final moments of college fretting about the future. Use your time to accept and appreciate all of the unique opportunities college has to offer. Be mindful and open-minded. View your major as an advantage, not a limitation. Ask for help when you need it. Take your time; and, above all, strive for what makes you feel most happy and accomplished.

Lauren is a Commonwealth Honors Scholar, Class of 2014, from Salisbury, MA.

2015 Honors Graduates

Karolina Bak is pursuing a Juris Doctorate degree at New England School of Law in Boston.

Alyssa Bourke is working in merchandising at Walt Disney World.

LeeAnne Brown is a Lighting Technician for Circus Smirkus for summer 2015.

Brad Buzzee is joining the Northampton Police Department as a police officer.

Cledia Caberlon is working at the New England Center for Children (NECC) in Southborough, MA. NECC is a private

school with residential services for students with extreme mental disabilities, mostly autism.

Carolyn Cote is working as an Associate Recruiter with Barton Associates.

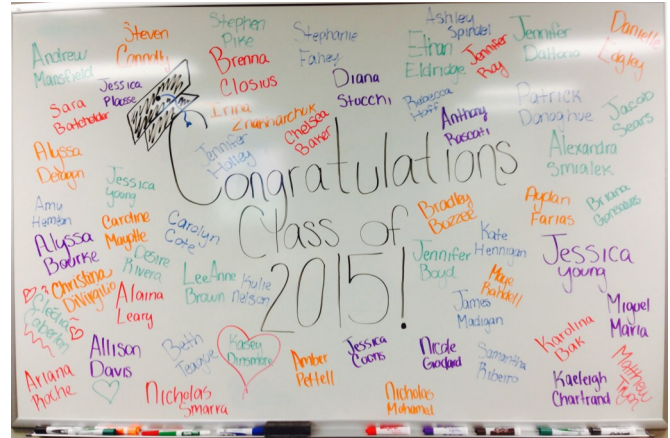
Ally Davis is attending the Teacher Fellowship Program at Merrimack College in New Hampshire.

Patrick Donoghue is working as an Underwriting Analyst at Aetna in Hartford.

Danielle Edgley is working for Whalley Computer Associates in Southwick.

(2015 Honors Graduates, continued on p. 13)

IN THE HONORS CENTER



Prof. Brewster offers a toast while Prof. Diana raises her glass (of sparkling apple cider) to celebrate the Class of 2015 Commonwealth and University Honors scholars during the End-of-Semester Chinese Dinner held in the Honors Center. The end-of-semester dinner is one of our most popular events, bringing together students and faculty to reminisce, and the event in spring marks the closing of the academic year and our farewell to graduating seniors as they commence the next stage of their lives.



SPRING 2015 HONORS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

 Congratulations to Honors students who presented their Senior Honors Projects in spring 2015 and thank you to the committees, librarians, and Reading and Writing Center for supporting their work.



ALYSSA BOURKE



BRADLEY BUZZEE



BRENNA CLOSIUS



CAROLYN COTE



JENNIFER DALTORIO



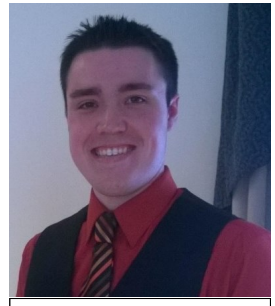
ALYSSA DERAGON



ALAINA LEARY



ANDREW MANSFIELD



ANTHONY RASCATI



ALEXANDRA SMIALEK



DIANA STUCCHI



BETH TEAGUE



HONORS STUDENTS WHO SHINE



Students were recognized for their accomplishments at the university's annual Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony in April 2015. Many Honors students earned departmental recognition (above, left to right and top to bottom, Criminal Justice, English, Communication, History, Economics, and Political Science), as well as for being Commonwealth or Honors Scholars (see pp. 14 and 15). In addition, History major Jake Sears won the 1st Prize Phi Kappa Phi Student Scholarly Essay Award for his essay "The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb: Tragic Salvation of the Pacific or Exorbitant Diplomatic Maneuver?" English major Nicole Godard received one of two William C. Johnson Distinguished Scholarships, the highest scholarship awarded annually by Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, to use toward graduate studies. Her award was announced at the national Sigma Tau Delta Convention in Albuquerque, NM, in March 2015.

(2015 Honors Graduates, continued from p.10)

Stephanie Fahey is pursuing a Master of Forensic Mental Health Counseling degree at Westfield State University.
Nicole Godard is teaching at the Hampden Charter School of Science in Chicopee.
Jennifer Holley is entering the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Connecticut.
Alaina Leary received a Dean's Fellowship to attend the Masters of Publishing and Writing Program at Emerson College in Boston.
Jim Madigan is pursuing a Master of Art degree in English at Westfield State University.
Jessica Plausse is attending the Teacher Fellowship Program at Merrimack College.
Maye Randell is a Teacher's Assistant at United Internation-

al College in Zhuhai, China.
Anthony Rascati is pursuing a Juris Doctorate degree at Elon University School of Law in North Carolina.
Samantha Ribeiro is a head teller for TD Bank.
Desire Rivera is pursuing a Master of Psychology degree at Westfield State University.
Ariana Roche is pursuing a Master of Education degree in School Counseling at UMass, Boston.
Ola Smialek is pursuing a Master of Regional Planning degree at UMass, Amherst.
Diana Stucchi is pursuing a Master in Clinical Exercise Physiology degree at Springfield College.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

COMMONWEALTH HONORS SCHOLARS

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.

Alyssa Bourke: English, *Bipolar Disorder in Musical Theatre*, Dr. Sabine Klein.

Bradley Buzzee: Criminal Justice, *Terrorist Swarm Attacks and U.S. Domestic Security*, Dr. George Michael.

Brenna Closius: Political Science, *Agent Orange and the U.S. Government*, Dr. Thomas Gardner.

Carolyn Cote: Business Management, *Female Employ-*

ment in the Banking Industry, Dr. Liem Nguyen.

Jennifer Daltorio: Communication, *Advertising History and Social Context: A Case Study of Maidenform*, Dr. Mark Nimkoff.

Alyssa Deragon: English, *Margaret and Clarissa: Nuanced Feminism in North and South and Mrs. Dalloway*, Dr. Elizabeth Starr.

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.

Alaina Leary: English, *Me, Myself, and Facebook: Social Media and Texting's Effects on Identity and Interpersonal Communication*, Dr. Michael Filas.

James Madigan: English, *Great Power, Great Responsibility: Challenging the Adolescent-Adult Age Binary in The Amazing Spider-Man*, Dr. Sophia Sariganides.

Andrew Mansfield: Political Science and English, *The Flower Power of Allen Ginsberg*, Dr. Gregg Neikirk.

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

Anthony Rascati: Criminal Justice and Economics, *Policy Recommendation for Hydraulic Fracturing in Westfield, Massachusetts: Externalities, NIMBYism, and Public Values*, Dr. Hillary Sackett.

Alexandra Smialek: Regional Planning, *Women in the Built Environment: Analyzing Low-Income Women's Access to Transportation in Springfield, MA*, Dr. Kathryn Terzano.

Diana Stucchi: Movement Science, *Regional Muscle Activation*, Dr. Melissa Roti.

Beth Teague: English and Psychology, *Expressive Writing and Gratitude Journaling with Young Adult Depression, Rumination, and Self-Worth Contingencies*, Dr. Rebecca Burwell.

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



Smiling Honors students, pictured with President Elizabeth Preston, are among the seventeen Honors students who were recognized as Commonwealth Honors Scholars at this year's Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony in April. Many of these students also received departmental recognition at the Academic Excellence Awards ceremony (see p.13).

UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLARS

The designation of University Honors Scholar is awarded to students who complete a minimum of six Honors courses (at least one upper-level Honors seminar) with a B or higher and maintain an overall GPA of 3.30 or higher. Listed below are recipients and their major(s).

Karolina Bak: Criminal Justice and Political Science.

Chelsea Baker: Mathematics.

Sara Batchelder: Psychology and Communication.

Jennifer Boyd: English.

LeeAnne Brown: Theatre Arts.

Cledia Caberlon: Psychology and Ethnic and Gender Studies.

Kaeleigh Chartrand: Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Steven Connolly: Business Management.

Jessica Coons: Special Education and Liberal Studies.

Allison Davis: Political Science.

Kasey Dinsmore: Psychology.

Christina DiVirgilio: Communication.

Patrick Donoghue: Business Management.

Danielle Edgley: Business Management.



Honors students, pictured with President Elizabeth Preston and Prof. Sonya Lawson, are among the thirty-seven Honors students who were recognized as University Honors Scholars at this year's Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony. Many of these students also received departmental recognition at the Academic Excellence Awards ceremony (see p.13).

Ethan Eldridge: Criminal Justice and Political Science.

Stephanie Fahey: Psychology.

Aydan Farias: Mathematics and Economics.

Briana Gonsalves: Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Amy Hemeon: Psychology.

Kate Hennigan: Elementary Education and Psychology.

Rebecca Hoff: Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Miguel Maria: Political Science and Economics.

Caroline Mayotte: General Science.

Nicholas Mohamed: Criminal Justice.

Kylie Nelson: Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Stephen Pike: Business Management and Economics.

Jessica Plausse: Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Maye Randell: Communication.

Samantha Ribeiro: Business Management.

Desire Rivera: Psychology and Theatre Arts.

Ariana Roche: Psychology.

Jennifer Roy: Mathematics.

Jacob Sears: History.

Nicholas Smarra: Political Science.

Ashley Spindel: Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Mathew Tryon: History.

Irina Znakharchuk: Mathematics and Education.



CONGRATULATIONS, 2015 HONORS GRADUATES!



Congratulations to the Class of 2015 Honors Scholars, including co-Valedictorian and Commonwealth Honors Scholar Jennifer Holley (pictured far left)!

