#### **Contact Information**



# **University Honors College**

### Freshman Convocation

This year, Freshman Convocation was held on Thursday, September 18. This event is a special ceremony that brings together the University's incoming class, President, Provost, administration, faculty, and staff. It is an important marker of the new academic year. Incoming students are welcomed and presented with a challenge to make the most of their university experiences by rising to the expectations of the institution of higher education.

At this year's ceremony, Jess Sheilheimer of the class of 1997, now Chief Strategy Officer at MWW Group, New York, New York, addressed students. In keeping with the theme of the Convocation Ceremony, all students should motivate themselves to make of their university experience what they desire. It is up to the individual to make use of all the resources available at William Paterson University.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014



Honors first year seminar classes meeting with Dr. Susan Dinan and Jan Pinkston before the Convocation Ceremony

### A Note from Dr. Susan Dinan

Welcome to the William Paterson University Honors College,

The Honors College is delighted to welcome a new class of students to join those returning to this dynamic community. I hope you are settling into your semester well and seeing improvement in your time management and organizational skills as the semester becomes busier. I know that some students tend to panic in the face of their first college midterms, so please remember that we would not have admitted you into the Honors College if we did not believe that you would thrive here. Study well, and remember to breathe during your exams!

The Honors College tries to offer you experiences outside the classroom. Please join us for the Lunches in the Lounge and the Holiday Party so you have the opportunity to meet your fellow students along with Honors College faculty and staff members. Please also participate in the coat drive so we can help needy families in Passaic County keep a bit warmer this winter!

I am delighted that the Honors Club has elected a dedicated and hard-working group of leaders, and I encourage you to contribute your thoughts about trips you would like to take, things you would like to do in New York City and in New Jersey, and service projects you would like to be part of on and off campus. The club is your organization, so please contribute your ideas about activities, and please participate actively in it.

I wish you a wonderful fall semester. Please do not hesitate to come to the Honors College office with questions or concerns, and you are always welcome to drop by and say hello.

All the best,

-Susan Dinan

#### Director Susan Dinan, Ph.D. dinans@wpunj.edu 154B Raubinger Hall

Assistant Director Jan Pinkston pinkstonj@wpunj.edu 154A Raubinger Hall

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WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

### "We All Scream for Ice Cream"

The annual Honors Ice Cream Social was held on Wednesday, September 17. Those present had the opportunity to meet with their peers as well as University and Honors College faculty and staff. In addition to preparing sundaes, guests enjoyed participating in a photo scavenger hunt. The Honors College wishes to thank all those who participated in the day's festivities.



Honors students enjoying the ice cream social





Honors students assistant, Michelle Ginart, scooping ice cream Photos courtesy of Rachael Segal

IONEE RS!

### **Honors Has Pioneer Pride**

Recently, the Honors College entered a campus office decorating contest as a part of this year's



# **Stories from Students**

meeting with

From editing promos

and commercials to

celebrities, senior

Honors student, Phillip

Gorokhovsky, has his

hands full as an audio

production intern for

Elvis Duran and the

Z100 Morning Show.

Phillip recently shared

his experiences with



32 Avenue of Americas Office Building

See what he has to say about interning for the Morning Show and the advice he has to offer to those considering applying for internship programs. Honors College: Where are you currently interning?

Phillip Gorokhovsky: I'm an audio production intern for Elvis Duran and the Z100 Morning Show. And if you listen to the show, you know how big of a role the interns play in the planning and execution of the show.

#### What does your position entail?

I would love to start my next sentence with, "so a typical day at Elvis Duran and Morning

Show looks like this." But, I can't. Typical days don't exist here. I can, however, tell you what I usually do. I record and edit liners, promos, commercials and entertainment news updates with



Phillip and interns with Alicia Keys

the morning show hosts. Once all the recordings sound nice and pretty, I do one of several things with them. I'll either send them out to affiliate stations, get them ready to be played on Elvis Duran and the Morning Show or On-Air with Ryan Seacrest—Z100's midday show—or, if they're commercials, we send them back to the companies who have requested them so they can be chopped up and rearranged. I also get the chance to exercise my creative side by putting together videos for the morning show's Vine, Instagram and Keek accounts as well as the show's website, in addition to a bunch of other projects. How did you find out about the position? What was the application process like?

I found out about the position through online research. I love the show and figured, why not shoot for the top? I put together my resume/cover letter and applied online. The next day, I got a call from the show looking to schedule an interview with one of the executive producers. The interview lasted about an hour and a half, but that's because we have a lot in common. We mostly talked about music, TV, radio, travel, and a touch of politics, believe it or not.

Have you met any celebrities? What are those experiences like? I love spontaneity. I live for it. That's why I enjoy radio and that's why I enjoy working with Elvis Duran and the Morning Show. Let me give you an example. Picture this: It's my second week on the job. I walk into the Z100 studios (where Elvis and the crew

Phillip and interns with Nick Jonas

do the show), I take off my ear buds

(because ear buds are a must in New York), and I look back and see Elvis pointing at me through the studio window. I did one of those things where I looked behind me to see if there was anyone else he could have possibly been pointing at. In the meantime, I hear everyone shouting, "get in!" So, I did as I was told and I joined a nationally syndicated morning

show for a few of the most exciting minutes I have ever experienced in broadcasting. Turns out, they just liked my shoes. So far, I had the

chance to meet Jake Miller, Nick Jonas, Alicia Keys, Usher, Jason Derulo, Wendy Williams, Billy Bush, Pentatonix (an a cappella group), and Jared from Subway. I also got the chance to see Ryan Seacrest when he came to visit from LA.

What advice would you give to students who might consider applying for internship programs? There are a few things I would say to students applying to internship programs.

- I. Don't fall into the trap of self-pity.
- 2. Chances are, where you intern is not where you will ultimately be. I have absolutely no idea what will happen or where I will be tomorrow, much less at the end of the semester. And that feeling, strangely enough, comforts me. If you ask me, "what do you want to do when you graduate?" I'll tell you, "I want to work on something of my own." What's it going to be? I don't know.

3. DO NOT be afraid to talk to people. In fact, talk to everybody. That security guard in the lobby you chat with every morning might sneak you into some exclusive event one day. (Happened to me before).

4. Try to tackle as many things as possible, and when you feel overwhelmed, tackle even more. That's when

you learn the most about yourself.

5. CLICHÉ ALERT—Shoot for the top all the time. The worst thing that may happen is you don't reach it. But the best thing that may happen is you do. I always felt like it's more rewarding to work for yourself rather than someone else. I, personally, don't feel successful until I follow through with something I came up with. Now, I know that's not the case for everyone, but, If you were to take one piece of advice from this entire interview, let it be this:



Phillip and intern with Jason Derulo

Don't follow in someone else's footsteps. Start something that matters. Make something beautiful and share it with everyone.

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Jan Pinkston, Assistant Director of the Honors College

Jan's Tips for Student Success

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help ensure that registration for the Spring 2015 semester will go smoothly:

- Make an appointment with your advisor. When you contact your advisor, be sure to let him/her know you have priority registration on 11/5. If you are in an Honors Track, be sure to meet with your major advisor AND your Track Director.
- Be prepared for your advisement session. Go to the William Paterson website and type "Four Year Graduation Plan" in the search bar for a link to important information about your major and a plan for "finishing in four." It is also helpful to take a copy of your degree evaluation with you to

your advisement appointment (you can generate a degree evaluation under your "student" tab on WP Connect). Be sure to be on time for your appointment, and if you must cancel, let your advisor know in advance.

Prior to registration day, make a daily schedule. Be sure to schedule class times and study times when you are most alert. Also, when you're planning your schedule, be sure to include ample time for important daily activities, like sleeping, exercising, and eating (yes, I have known Honors students who got so busy, they forgot to eat!). It's also important to build some free time into your schedule. By practicing self-discipline and fulfilling your daily responsibilities, you can enjoy some guilt-free time to yourself each day to relax and socialize with your friends.

- Go to your "student" tab on WP Connect and check to make sure you don't have any holds that will prevent you from registering. Check again just prior to registration to make sure a hold was not added at the last minute.
- Be sure to pay attention to email notices that you receive from the University notifying you about payment due dates, incomplete financial aid information, and other issues. Don't risk being de-registered due to issues that could have easily been resolved.

### Coat Drive Challenge 🍇

First year seminar classes are invited to participate in the FYS Coat Drive Challenge in support of the Annual Honors Coat Drive. Classes will compete to collect donations. At the end of the month, the class that has made the largest number of donations will win a pizza party. To participate, please bring all donations to the Honors Office, Raubinger 154. Log in all donations with a staff member to earn credit for your class. For more information, contact Honors at honors@wpunj.edu.

### **Club Corner**

The Honors Club held elections for executive board positions on Thursday, October 2. The following students were elected: President: Brandon Reis Vice President: Erica Schwerthoffer Treasurer: Gabriella Salvador Secretary: Jenna Schreck Social Events Coordinator: Carley McDonald Executive board members held their first meeting on Thursday, October 9 and look forward to a productive semester. Please be sure to monitor the Honors Weekly Announcements for club announcements and information.

# **Get Involved!**

Looking for ways to get involved with the William Paterson Community? Take a look at these community service opportunities hosted by the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership. For more information about these and other campus and community events, visit the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership page at http:// www.wpunj.edu/campus-activities/ index.dot.

#### William Paterson University-Community Service PAGE 5



# **Student Spotlight**



Meet Honors student. David Brunkhorst. David is currently a senior set to graduate in May with degrees in education. He recently spoke with Honors about his

experience in the Biopsychology Track. See what David has to say about the value of completing an Honors thesis.

#### Honors: Why did you choose the **Biopsychology Track?**

David Brunkhorst: This was the track that most overlapped with my major. As a biology double major, I was already going to have a hard time finishing in four years, and an honors track that did not overlap with at least one of my two majors would have made it almost impossible. I lucked out because I have found this track rather interesting, though it can be a bit of a challenge at times.

#### Can you tell us a bit about your thesis project? How did you develop the project?

My thesis project involves studying the effects of diazepam (valium) on mice

that express an autistic phenotype. We think that the autistic like mice lack neurotransmitters that keep brain activity at a reasonable level. We think that by treating the mice with this drug, they should return to a relatively biology and secondary normal level of function. There are a few other people working on this project as a whole, but I will be looking at the brain itself and see if the drug creates any neuronal changes in the brain.

#### What is the research process like?

The research process is a bit of a struggle for me. I do enjoy biology, but I never really wanted to pursue a career in research. Especially in science, it can get rather repetitive, as you usually need 7 or 8 replicates minimum for 2-4 groups, so it is a lot of repeating processes over and over. Some people don't mind this too much, but I personally struggle with it.

### What are you most looking

forward to about Honors week? I really enjoy actually talking about my project. As a future educator, I think that research into the autistic spectrum is extremely interesting, and extremely useful. I already enjoy talking about my project, and it is still in its formative

stages. I can't wait to present the material to everyone at Honors week.

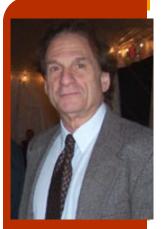
Can you offer some advice to Honors students who might still be deciding on an Honors Track? If you can, look for a track that suits your interests. I have friends who are biology majors that chose one of the English tracks, so it really just matters what you are interested in. If you are strapped for time, like I was, it can be a bit hard, but if you have the time and need some credits to fill you up, definitely branch outside your major if you can.

#### Any additional comments about the value of completing an Honors thesis?

An honors thesis is a wonderful thing to have. Not many first degree bachelors' students can say that they have a 40-50 page thesis of original research and that can be a huge asset for your life after you graduate, whether you choose to apply to grad school for continued education or are looking for a job. It shows you have research skills, which is not a skill everyone has.

"Not many first degree bachelors' students can say that they have a 40-50 page thesis of original research."

### PAGE 6



Dr. Philip Cioffari, Director of the Performing and Literary Arts Track

### **News from Honors Faculty**

Dr. Philip Cioffari, professor of English and director of the Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track, has been at work on his latest novel, *Dark Road, Dead End*. The novel, set to be published in November, accounts the experience of Walter Morrison, an undercover U.S. Customs agent investigating the smuggling of exotic and endangered species in Florida's Everglades.

The illegal smuggling of exotic

and endangered wildlife is currently the second largest original crime in Florida and the third largest in the world. Early drafts of the novel highlighted drug trafficking, however, Cioffari chose to rewrite the novel so that the final draft would reflect the realities of endangered animal smuggling, a crime that to date has been the central subject of few literary works.

In addition to anticipating the

publication of his new work, Dr. Cioffari will be attending the Sacramento Italian American Film Festival in mid-October, where his independent film, *Love in the Age of Dion*, has been accepted for screening. Later in the month, he will be serving as a panelist at an Indianapolis Crime Writer's Conference where he will speak on various aspects of the craft of writing.

Lunch in the Lounge

semester was held on Tuesday, September 16. Those present had the opportunity to introduce themselves to their peers as pizza was served. At the meeting, former Honors Club Vice President, Mohammad Marey, spoke to students about the upcoming Honors Club Executive Board Elections.

The second Lunch in the Lounge meeting was held on Thursday, October 2. Student Phillip Gorokhovsky was present to share his internship experiences with club members. Additionally, those in attendance had the opportunity to cast their ballots for the Club's new executive board.



Honors students at Lunch in the Lounge



### Honors Cluster Field Trip

Honors cluster students enjoyed a trip to Ellis Island on Wednesday, October 1. Photos courtesy of Prof. O'Donnell and Prof. Wahrman





UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

# Freshman Move-In Day

Freshman Move--in Day, held on Monday, September I, kick-started the fall semester. Honors mentors and volunteers worked alongside Residence Life staff, as well as volunteers from the University's sports teams, sororities and fraternities, to help first-year students settle into their dorm rooms.

First-year Honors Students are typically housed in the High Mountain East residence hall. The goal is to foster a sense of community among students who share similar academic goals and interests.

Move-in Day gave students the opportunity to meet with their peers and the Honors College Staff. The Honors College wishes to thank all those who participated in this year's event and wishes all students a great start to a successful semester.



Honors College volunteers with Director, Susan Dinan and Assistant Director, Jan Pinkston.

### **Time for Honors Alumni**



Former Honors student, Phoebe North, graduated from William Paterson University with a major in Creative Writing and a minor in Philosophy. She

was a member of the Performing and Literary Arts Track and worked to complete a collection of prose poetry about her childhood and adolescence in Central New Jersey titled, "Nostalgia: A Mixed Tape of Memories." Since her days as an undergraduate, Phoebe has been fascinated by stories of girlhood.

Since graduating, Phoebe has continued to pursue writing, publishing two novels entitled Starglass and Starbreak. Both novels target young readers and are available from Simon and Schuster Books. The novels introduce readers to Terra, a sixteen-year-old girl coming of age on a spaceship that has traveled five hundred years from a dying earth. When rebellion brews on the spaceship, Terra witnesses the murder of a man and must decide how to proceed, all while juggling the parent and boy problems characteristic of teenage years. The novel's sequel explores the life of Terra and her people as they arrive at a long-promised planet and find it inhabited. "The Starglass sequence took several years to write," says Phoebe, "It wasn't the first book I wrote, or queried, but I am incredibly proud to have it be the first to reach publication. I have always been a fan of science fiction and fantasy, and am very happy to contribute to genre literature with Terra's story."

### **FYS** Activities

This semester, first-year students have been busy adjusting to campus life. The Honors College has provided students with opportunities to familiarize themselves with the William Paterson campus and procedures as well as the students and faculty of the University Honors College. Pictured below (left) are first year students enjoying a High Mountain hike. Also pictured (right) are students at the first-year meeting held during common hour on Thursday, October 9 in University Commons room 168. University Core Curriculum and priority registration procedures were discussed.



PAGE 8 🦊

# **Priority Registration**

"With priority registration, classes I need or want to take won't be filled up before I can sign up for them. This is really important for classes in my major that fill up really quickly; I'm spared the agony of having to wait for next semester to take a class necessary to graduate. The only downside to priority registration is that most academic advisors only start holding appointments on or after the priority registration date, meaning that I do most of my advising myself."

-Gabriela Salvador

Priority Registration for Honors students IN GOOD STANDING in the Honors College is coming up soon. Please monitor your e-mail for an exact date. In order to be considered in good standing in Honors, students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and must be enrolled in at least one Honors UCC course each semester, or be enrolled in an Honors Track.

If you haven't already, be sure to make an appointment to see your advisor now. Dr. Dinan serves as the advisor for first year Honors students with the exception of Music, Art, and Nursing majors. To schedule an appointment with her, please stop by the Honors Office (Raubinger 154), and sign up on the advising sign-up sheet. Music, Art, Nursing, and upper division students can verify the name of their advisor by logging into WP Connect and clicking on the Students tab. A link called "My Advisor and WPnotes" is located under the "Student Records" heading. When you email or call your advisor to set up an appointment, be sure to let him or her know you have priority registration.

A list of the Honors courses and Honors Track courses that will be offered during the Spring 2015 semester will be available on the Honors College Website. Enrollment in these honors sections is by permit only. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To obtain a permit for an Honors course, please send an email to honors@wpunj.edu, and include your name, 855 number, and the name of the Honors class or classes you would like to enroll in for the spring. Please be sure to monitor your William Paterson e-mail for additional registration information and important notifications.

\*NOTE: If you have not seen your advisor, you will not receive your registration PIN and you will lose the privilege of priority registration.

### **Tips for a Stress-Free Registration**

- Set up a meeting with your advisor to discuss your class schedule and obtain your six digit pin number. The pin number should begin with 000. If this is not the case, your pin number is incorrect and you should contact Jan Pinkston at (973)720-3776.
- 2. Request necessary permits by emailing Honors at honors@wpunj.edu.
- Always check your students tab in WPConnect for important information about registration and messages regarding holds that may prevent you from registering.
- 4. Do not panic if you are not able to immediately log in to access the registration page. If there is a system-wide problem, you will receive an email from Honors. If the problem is unique and you cannot access the system after numerous attempts over a one hour period, send an email to honors@wpunj.edu with your name, 855 number, contact information and a description of the problem.



Need a registration refresher? Visit the Honors College Website's Curriculum Page for detailed instructions. Honors College and Honors Club:

# **COAT DRIVE**

### Now underway!

Gently worn coats of all sizes and other winter attire (scarves, hats, gloves, etc.) are being accepted. Please bring items to the Honors College office (Raubinger 154), or send an email message to <u>honors@wpunj.edu</u> to make arrangements to have items picked up from your office or other campus location. For more information, please call 973-720-3657

# Thank you for your support!

The items will be delivered to the Passaic County Headstart in November.

#### PAGE 10



"Studying education abroad in the Netherlands was such an incredible experience. I was able to observe different school environments and observe their teaching techniques. Among being apart of a wonderful program, I was also able to travel to Paris and Amsterdam for one weekend each. It felt amazing to take in so many cultures and *experience different* ways of life. I'm so glad I was able to embark on a once in a lifetime experience!"

-Brittany Warther

### **Study Abroad and Internship Opportunities**

### CAPITAL SEMESTER SPRING 2015 WASHINGTON, D.C.

www.DCinternships.org/CS FINAL DEADLINE: November 5, 2014

Sponsored by The Fund for American Studies, Capital Semester combines substantive internships, 12 academic credits, career development activities, site briefings and lectures led by policy experts. This fast-paced, fifteen-week residential program provides undergraduate students from around the world with opportunities to gain the edge in today's competitive job market and graduate school admissions, and experience the excitement of Washington first-hand.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Travel Course to Tanzania Wildlife Conservation & Sustainable Ecotourism (GGR 35, GGR 360 (Honors), GGR 535, EVS 575) May 31 - June 14, 2015

This course explores relationships between people, wildlife, and the environment in the savanna ecosystem of northern Tanzania, renowned for its abundant wildlife, scenic landscapes, cultural significance, and the challenges of competing demands for nature conservation and local economic development. Learn about the complexities of sustainable development in the nature tourism sector from the Internships - Competitive placements with government agencies, congressional offices, public policy groups, international affairs organizations, news outlets, communications firms and nonprofit organizations Housing – Roommate matching and furnished Capitol Hill apartments in the heart of D.C. Classes – Full-time course load accredited by George Mason University Guest Lectures - With Washington's top policy and economics experts Exclusive Briefings - At the World Bank, State Department, U.S. Capitol and Federal Reserve Leadership & Professional Development - Leadership, mentoring and career building

Networking – Interaction with seasoned professionals and student

activities

perspectives of wildlife ecologists, international environmental organizations, Tanzanian development agencies, local Chagga farmer and Maasai herder communities, and private-sector tourism enterprises. Course activities include: -Classroom sessions on local geography, economy, and the practice of ecotourism -Guided field excursions to Lake Manyara National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and the Mt. Kilimanjaro region -Meetings with representatives from international and Tanzanian environmental conservation organizations

leaders from around the world Scholarships – Generous scholarships are awarded based on merit and financial need and over 75% of students receive scholarship funding

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the Final Deadline of November 5, 2014. Students are encouraged to apply for the early deadline of October 1, 2014 to receive a 5% discount on their tuition balance as well as priority internship placement. Detailed information on the program may be found at

www.DCinternships.org/CS.

For more information and an online application, please visit our website www.DCinternships.org/ CS or contact Dana Faught, Associate Director of Recruitment and Admissions at dfaught@tfas.org or 202-986-0384.

-A visit with faculty and students at the College of African Wildlife Management

For more information contact: Professor Mark Pires, Earth & Environmental Science Department Long Island University – post Campus mark.pires@liu.edu



#### PAGE II

# Ask an Honors Student...

### What goals have you set for yourself this semester?



(from left) Priscilla Cordero, Emily Moore, Sarah Wilmote, Abigail DeBel, Melanie Tanis, Nejesea Brown, Karissa Foreman

"With a new music minor, I'm determined to improve my music theory skills" -Priscilla Cordero
"The Writing Center is a great resource for editing and improving essays, but I was never able to finish my essays in enough time to visit. This semester, I plan on finishing every writing assignment at least two days in advance so I'll have plenty of time to schedule a visit." -Emily Moore
"This semester I plan to not only be more involved in the WPU community but to be involved in the surrounding community as well. I've joined more clubs this semester. I've also joined the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, a volunteer-supported youth mentoring organization, to mentor a student that attends school in Paterson, NJ. Overall, I plan to prosper both intellectually and socially this semester." -Sarah Wilmote
"I want to get involved in clubs and activities that will help me in my major as well as serve our community, while focusing on my major" -Abigail DeBel
"This semester I'd like to say I was able to get involved in clubs and activities that will help me fulfill my life goal of helping others" -Melanie Tanis
"To get more "A's" than "B's" in all my classes, to get a gpa of or over 3.5, to make new friends, and to get involved with at least one clubNejesea Brown
The goals I have set for myself this semester include getting more involved on campus and not being so stressed! - Karissa Foreman

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Event
10/23/14	12:30 p.m.	University Commons 168 A&B	<b>Mandatory</b> meeting for first year students
10/30/14	I 2:30 p.m.	4th Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge
11/20/14	12:30 p.m.	4th Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge
12/10/14	2:00 p.m 4:30 p.m.	2nd Floor Hobart Manor	Honors Holiday Party

# Ask an Honors Student...

### What is the most interesting course you are taking this semester?

Submit your response to honors@wpunj.edu for a chance to have it published in the November/December issue of the Honors Newsletter.

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/.