

THE SPOUTER



Message from the Honors Director

Professor Robert Darst

It's hard to believe, but Fall 2010 is almost over! It has been an exciting semester for the Honors Program:

New Honors students. First, it is my great pleasure to welcome the 124 new students—122 freshmen and two transfer students—who joined us this fall, bringing the total number of currently enrolled Honors students to 352. I look forward to meeting every one of you and matching faces to your names.

Latest on the Honors Center-to-be. When the renovation of the University Library is complete, the Honors Center will move to the second floor as part of the “scholarly commons.” We will have two offices, a meeting room, and a lounge area. In the meantime, we will do our best to cope with the complications of working and teaching in a construction zone.

Honors Housing in Maple Ridge. At the beginning of the semester, Honors Housing moved to its new home in the Maple Ridge dormitory. The third floor of Maple Ridge is now home to both Honors and Nursing Housing, thus ensuring that at least one floor of one dorm on the freshman quad is (relatively) “quiet.” Our veteran students report that the change has been all for the better.

New Honors Student Council. At the end of the Spring 2010 semester, the Honors Program Committee decided to create an Honors Student Council of nine students. The Student Council represents the interests of the students within the administration of the Honors Program, and organizes extracurricular, recruit-

ment, and fundraising activities. The Council's members have been very busy this semester, organizing activities and building a framework for student participation in the Honors Program—and designing a new program logo in the process!

New Associate Student Director. Our new Associate Student Director is Elise DePlanche. Elise is a sophomore double majoring in English and Psychology. Along with our Student Director Matt Litchfield, Elise serves on the Honors Student Council and Honors Program Committee and helps to organize student participation in Honors Program events. We are delighted to have her on board!

National Honors Conference. In October, the student and faculty directors traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, for the National Collegiate Honors Conference, the annual meeting of Honors students and faculty from around the country. We came back with plenty of new ideas for our own Honors Program, and had fun to boot. We hope to be able to send a larger student delegation to the Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Portland, Maine, in the spring.

As always, many thanks to everyone—students, faculty, staff, and administrators—who made this another successful semester for the Honors Program. I look forward to seeing you all in 2011!

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“World class. Within reach.”

Spouter is

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We welcome articles from students and faculty.

Honors Student Work Showcase

“Rose in Sand”

by Brian King, *English*

The Rose bloomed
not too long ago
un-nestled in earth,
alien to life-giving soil
born in a bed of coarse sand,
in a colorless landscape.
But bloom she did,
bright and beautiful,
a red star in an empty world.

The sand was loose,
drifting and shifting in the wind
but the Rose rooted in the sand,
holding it in place,
solidifying the ground.

The winds blow harder
but the Rose stood erect
and grew taller,
sprouting lush green leaves
and releasing the sweetest sent.

The sun grew hotter
and the dew burned away
but her deep red peddles shined,
against the sand, sun, and sky,
revealing her divine spiral.

Bees swarmed around the Rose,
an endless amount of bees
crawling on her
feeding off of her.
But after the bees got too fat to fly,
too fat to crawl,
too fat to move,
they died off
and she grew taller,
brighter,
still releasing her sweetest sent.

Soon grass sprouted from the solid ground
and more roses grew,
in the image of their Mother,
and the whole countryside breathed with color.

On a day when the sun did not shine
and no clouds were in the sky,
a blind hand came down
and plucked the Rose.
But her fragrance still floated in the air
reminding all who smelled it
of the Rose who grew so bright
in a bed of sand.

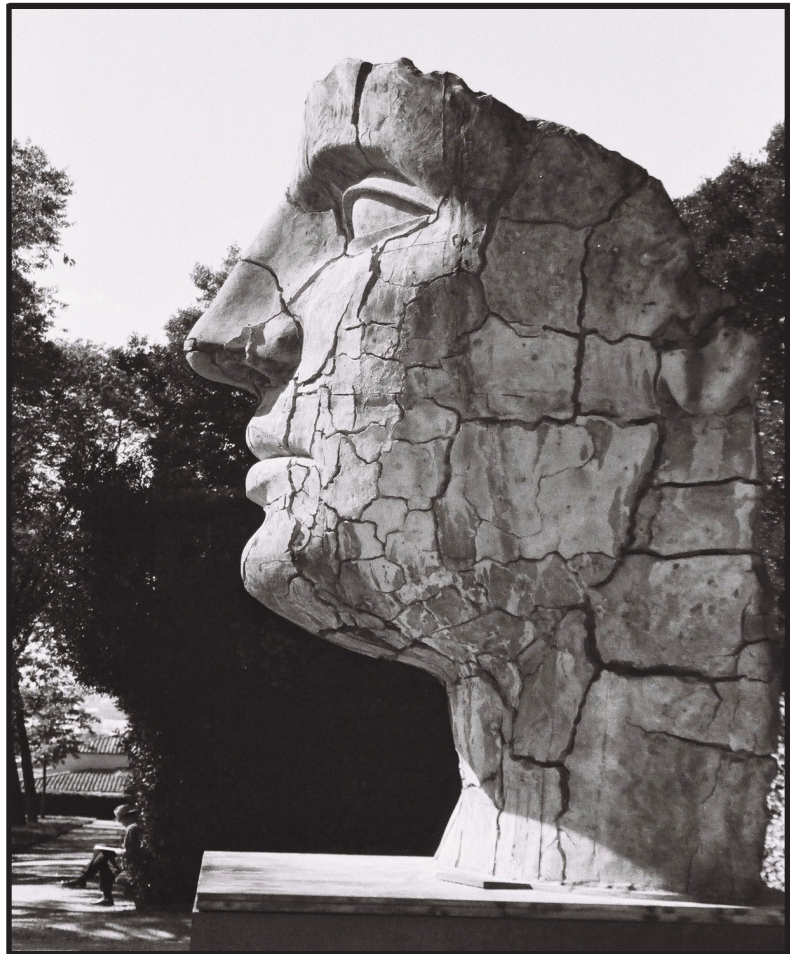
“Untitled”

by Ahysa Garland-Fry, *Photography*



“Royal Boboli Gardens of the Pitti Palace in Florence, Italy”

by Caitlin McGarigal, *Marine Biology*



Honors Student Council

This semester saw the formation of the Honors Student Council, a new group within the Honors Program that will organize social, educational, and community service events for honors students.

The council was created to meet the social needs of honors students on campus by forming a sense of community among them. This community building will be done primarily through events, although the council is also pushing for more honors classes and professors in all majors.

Honors Student Director Matt Litchfield noted that the council members are enthusiastic about the council's main objective. "Honors Student Council is a productive, dedicated group of honors students with great ideas and a passion for developing community amongst honors students," he said.

The Honors Student Council's structure mimics that of the Honors Program Committee, which is made up of faculty members representing their respective academic councils: Nursing, Engineering, Visual and Performing Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, and Business.

Thus, the Honors Student Council is comprised of one student representing each academic council, the Honors Student Director, and the Honors Associate Student Director.

Visual and Performing Arts Representative Mikala Kesselman noted that her favorite thing about the Council was the distribution of power across the colleges on campus.

"Honors Student Council is an open environment where everyone has an equal say in events, delegation, and organization," she said. "The council is well-rounded, and provides a fair voice for each college represented."

In addition to representing an academic council, each student on the council fills a particular role within the group, from Freshman Liaison to Community Service Chair to Socials Coordinator. This division of labor helps the council to run smoothly, although all major decisions are voted on by the group.

The council has organized several events over its first semester, including a game night, group viewing of Dartmouth Theatre Company's play *Pride and Prejudice*, Thanksgiving Potluck, movie night,

and a card making event in which students created holiday cards for patients at Children's Hospital Boston.

The council also recently voted on a logo for the Honors Program, which can be seen on the back cover of this newsletter.

Next semester, the council plans to host more movie nights, cooking nights, ballroom dancing classes, and "Tea with a Professor" events, as well as participate in Relay for Life.



Students playing games at Honors Game Night on September 28th

"As a part of this council, I believe that we, actual honors students, have the opportunity to build the Honors Program in such a way that addresses the actual needs and wants of students," said Social Science Representative Margarita Rojas. "We bring a new perspective to the Honors Staff, which I believe is valuable for creating a stronger Honors Program."

The Honors Student Council similarly believes in the importance of student action, and is always open to student input. If you have ideas for events you would like to see happen in the upcoming semester, or for improvements in the Honors Program, please feel free to contact your representative or the Student Director.

Want to get involved in the Honors Student Council? Do you have ideas for Honors events?

Let us know! Please contact one of our council members:

Matthew Litchfield - Chair
Honors Student Director
mlitchfield@umassd.edu

Brian King
Humanities Representative
bking@umassd.edu

David Ryan
Natural Sciences Representative
dryan@umassd.edu

Elise DePlanche - Secretary
Honors Associate Student Director
edeplanche@umassd.edu

Erica Lyons
Nursing Representative
elyons@umassd.edu

Jacob Skillin
Engineering Representative
jskillin@umassd.edu

Mikala Kesselman
Visual/Performing Arts Representative
mkesselman@umassd.edu

Margarita Rojas
Social Sciences Representative
mrojas@umassd.edu

Alycia Tellen
Business Representative
atellen@umassd.edu

2010 Honors Convocation and Commencement Pictures



Commonwealth Honors Scholars at Graduation



Kristen Tordella-Williams with Corsair mascot at Graduation



Director Prof. Darst with Cassandra Walsh at Graduation



Chancellor MacCormack greets the Honors Convocation audience



Associate Director Prof. Mulnix presenting awards at Honors Convocation



Provost Garro and Director Darst present John Michael Bell with his Essay Prize at Honors Convocation



Students, families, and UMD faculty and staff view student poster presentations of this year's Commonwealth Honors Projects

Feature: "Integrity" by Ana-Maria Bell

Below is Ana-Maria Bell's winning essay for the 2010 Margaret Mullany Panos Essay Contest on the topic of "Integrity." Ana-Maria read her essay at the University Honors Convocation Ceremony on May 5, 2010, and received a \$500 award for first place.



I remember, when I was thirteen years old, offering my five-year-old sister a bowl of soup for lunch. At this point of her childhood, the two presiding loves of her life were animals and ramen noodles. She asked what kind of soup it was, prodded me to explain what "chicken flavoring" meant, and with dawning resolution renounced the noodles -- in the name of her loved chickens. When she was five, we thought her vegetarian diet a piece of childish radicalism, soon to fade away. Yet she never wavered as she grew older; rather, with every passing year, as her knowledge grew, she relinquished other favorite foods without a second thought, so secure are her convictions.

After ten years of observing my sister, when I think of integrity, I cannot only think of the conscientious men and women who have demonstrated to me how to fearlessly jeopardize their peace in defense of what they deem valuable. When I think of integrity, I remember her resolute little face and her brown eyes glistening in indignation as she refused her favorite lunch in favor of a principle. What seemed then as an example of the forfeits that integrity demands has since crystallized in my understanding as a lesson about the more forceful, but less showy, requirements of integrity.

Although impossibly young, my sister had already internalized the foundation of integrity: a principle worth making sacrifices for. She had her conviction that animals should, in life, be kept happy and free and, in death, kept off her plate. Other convictions can serve just as well as seeds of integrity -- our culture tends

to agree, for example, that honesty is superior to deceit, that fair-play should triumph over injustice, that all men are created equal. It is only essential that a person identify a value larger than himself and worth holding to. Cultural and personal values form the bedrocks of integrity: values that shape our motivations and expectations, that define our lives as we hold to them or set ourselves apart from them.

Now, moral conviction isn't itself integrity. Moral points rise out of counterpoints. If she lived in a world without livestock, my sister's claims to vegetarianism would impress themselves on no-one. It is in the conflict of principle and practice that integrity is created. Integrity demands proofs; it begins with a snag and a struggle.

I won't talk of whether or not the world values integrity in our era of progress, of accelerating competition and the struggle to get ahead. Integrity has a chameleon face, adaptable and sometimes unrecognizable as it shifts from the service of one person to another. Our society reveals its regard for integrity by its admonition of integrity's opposite, hypocrisy. We prefer an unrepentant and unwavering criminal to the blackguards who proclaim their virtues. We expect people to act as they say they will, to not conceal or contradict their motivations. A person can have integrity even in adhering to what society might deem objectionable, so long as they don't claim to be in accord with society: a cutthroat competitor sacrifices no soundness of principle if she never claims to be merciful and fair. In this way, society supports both integrity and success without putting them in opposition to one another.

I would like, instead, to talk of another force that runs counter to integrity: a force marked not by initiative, but passivity. In my experience, integrity is not undermined by drive as much as it is by ignorance. People who proclaim themselves one thing, or cry out their support for another, must be willing to actively explore the applications of their principles in the world around them. From my observations, the invisible or underground flow of human experience undermines integrity more than its flagrant showcases. The pacifists of the world can oppose war easily enough, but the struggle becomes more complicated when it requires a conscientious examination of the less obvious playing-grounds of violence in the world.

None of this is to say that human beings are required to scrutinize every possible circumstance of living in order to soundly uphold their principles. However, people must be ware of the tunnel-vision and narrow-mindedness that shepherd ignorance and lead to unintentional hypocrisies. When I was young and at home, surrounded by people who shared my own values and exposed to certain channels of information, I did not often consider what my values meant in the world. Being exposed to far more diverse avenues and aspects of learning has changed this. Although I have, to this point, avoided crises of conscience involving vicious oppositions and dramatic decisions, learning about the details of human experience, here at school and in the thoroughfares of life, has brought many of my convictions into question, crystallizing the true applications of my values and requiring me to consider what it really takes to remain consistent.

Knowing this, I admire my sister's integrity all the more because she never flinches from exploring the truth. When she comes across circumstances that expose an unintentional discord between her principles and practice, she does not bring out blinders, but rather welcomes the enlightenment. And for this, I can thank her for unexpectedly teaching me the most striking lesson about integrity that I've received thus far in life: that integrity and truth-seeking, not integrity and forfeit, go hand in hand.

Spotlight: 2010 National Collegiate Honors Conference

by *Elise DePlanche, Associate Student Director of the Honors Program*

October 20-24 found four members of the Honors Program staff walking through Kansas City, Missouri, listening, learning, and lunching in a totally new environment. Kansas City was this year's location for the National Collegiate Honors Council's 45th annual conference, a four-day event aimed at uniting, "educating, and enlightening" collegiate honors directors and students from across the nation, according to the conference program.

Indeed, the copious conference sessions—which usually centered around presentations given by two or three colleges on a particular topic—proved beneficial to all four attendees. The conference sessions covered a diverse range of topics, including student participation in Honors events, the differences between Honors Programs and Honors Colleges, and the benefits of Honors retreats.

Professor Jennifer Mulnix, the Associate Director of the Honors Program and a conference attendee, commented on the usefulness of learning from other collegiate honors programs: "The conference is a great opportunity to learn from and share with programs from across the country," she said. "After all, why re-invent the wheel if we don't have to? And there are a lot of wonderful programs out there."

Mulnix, Director Robert Darst, Student Director Matt Litchfield, and Associate Student Director Elise DePlanche split up during the day to attend sessions that interested them, and then got together for dinner afterward to share information they had learned that day relevant to UMass Dartmouth's Honors Program. The four staff members discussed a myriad of new ideas under the warm yellow lighting of unique local restaurants, such as the Flying Saucer. The time spent together not only brought about fruitful conversation and plans for the future of the UMass Dartmouth Honors



*At the Midland Theatre in Kansas City to hear the Samantha Fish Blues Band
Left to right: Dr. Robert Darst (Director), Elise DePlanche (Associate Student Director),
Matthew Litchfield (Student Director), Dr. Jennifer Mulnix (Associate Director)*

Program, but also helped bring a sense of camaraderie amongst the group.

In addition to the end-of-the-day dinner meetings, the attendees had time for leisure and entertainment scheduled by the conference. Such events included a student party, an improvisation group show, and a performance by the local group the Samantha Fish Blues Band.

Litchfield and DePlanche also attended a session on the first day of the conference called "City as Text," which encouraged them to think about Kansas City's main attractions within the context of the city's historical and cultural context. Students broke up into groups to visit one of several museums, historic sites, or artistic districts. DePlanche chose to see the Toy and Miniature Museum of Kansas City, while Litchfield's passion for African-American history led him to explore the historic jazz district known as 18th & Vine. Both students enthusiastically commented that their experience was an enjoyable one. "The toy museum was amazing," said DePlanche. "I didn't expect to find the original 1959 Barbie in Kansas City." When the groups returned, they each reported on what they

had seen and its significance to Kansas City's history, culture, and citizens.

The conference had also arranged for a handful of guest speakers to give talks at the event. DePlanche, Litchfield, and Prof. Mulnix all attended a speech by Aron Ralston, the high achieving mountain climber forced to cut off his own arm when it became wedged under a rock during a solo hike in 2003. His story of perseverance, aggressive individuality, and the psychological need to impress that often accompanies high achievement, struck a cord with his gifted, high-achieving audience. When he was faced with what seemed to be imminent death, he was forced to re-evaluate what was important in his life—and he found that family and friends should have come before his corporate job and insatiable desire for self-fulfillment.

Overall, the NCHC annual conference was an informative, enjoyable, and unique experience for the four staff members who attended. Although Litchfield will be graduating in the spring, Prof. Darst, Prof. Mulnix, and DePlanche look forward to attending the 2011 annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Alumni News

Nicole R. Boudria.

B.A. English. Class of 1998.

I was accepted to UMass Dartmouth's Professional Writing Program and in 2000, received my Master's Degree in Professional Writing. Since then I've been working with the Star Kids Scholarship Program in Middletown, RI as a tutor specializing in English grammar and Reading comprehension.

Jeremy T. Theerman.

B.A. History. Class of 1998.

I graduated from Law School at SUNY Buffalo. I now live in Worcester, where I grew up, and practice law as a solo practitioner. My wife, Caroline and I had our first child in June 2010.

Sarah Chouinard.

B.S. Management. Class of 2006.

I earned a Certificate of Massage from the Salter School in Fall River, MA, and then I opened my own business called 'Sigh of Relief Massage' in Westport. I also have been singing at weddings, and at Artworks in New Bedford for an event called the Story Cafe that features Professional Storytellers from around New England and even around the world occasionally. I also had the privilege to sing the National Anthem in Fenway at a Red Sox game!

Erik Domingues.

B.S. Chemistry. Class of 2006.

I graduated from the University of Massachusetts Medical School with an MD degree in June 2010. I will be doing a year of Internal Medicine residency at St. Vincent Hospital. I will then complete a 3 year dermatology residency at UMass Memorial Healthcare in Worcester, MA.

Brian Ashmankas.

B.A. Political Science. Class of 2009.

I was elected selectman in my hometown of Millbury, MA in April 2010, defeating a 12-year incumbent with a door-to-door campaign that brought me to about 85% of the doors in town. Since being elected, I have focused on increasing regionalization (sharing services and employees with other towns, buying in bulk with other towns, etc.). I am also a first-year MA student at Boston College in Political Science.

Kristen Emmett.

B.A. English. Class of 2009.

I am finishing my first semester as an MA student at McGill University in the English Department. My area of study is nineteenth century literature with a focus on the American Renaissance, specifically the work and reception history of Henry David Thoreau.

Erin Marie Lewis.

B.A. Spanish. Class of 2009.

In August, I became a teacher for the district of Bridgewater-Raynham, teaching language and culture of Spain, Portugal, and France - a new class in which I had the freedom to design my own curriculum. Also, in April 2010 my husband and I welcomed a baby boy Stephen Paul Lewis Jr.

Elise Rapoza.

B.S. Quantitative Public Policy Analysis. Class of 2009.

I am currently the Program Research Analyst at the John Adams Innovation Institute: the economic development arm of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC). Before that, I was the Research & Analysis Intern at the same organization. My role is to develop and analyze information to support John Adams Innovation Institute priorities and work products, including the Index of the Massachusetts Innovation Economy.

Lauren Watka.

B.S. Biology, B.A. in French. Class of 2009.

I just started my Master's Degree in Environmental Science at Brown University. I also volunteer with the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve at their Visitor's Center and in their osprey nest surveys.

Aaron Cardoso.

B.A. Philosophy, Political Science. Class of 2010.

I am currently finishing my first semester as an MA student in the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) at McGill University. I hope to specialize in Latin American development, focusing on peasant studies.

Elise Gilbert.

B.A. English, Philosophy. Class of 2010.

I am currently an Assistant Photo Researcher for a textbook company called Jones & Bartlett Learning in Sudbury, working with authors to find relevant images/tables for their books, acquire the proper permissions, and do database management. I'm currently in touch with a couple of non-profit woman's advocacy agencies and plan on doing some volunteer work in the Worcester area. I plan to go back to school for a Master's in Social Work.

Aimee Ross.

B.S. Mathematics. Class of 2010.

I am employed at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI. I work as a Scientist in the Undersea Warfare Combat Systems Department, primarily working on testing and analysis of Tomahawk Missiles.

Cassandra Walsh.

B.S. Human Resource Management. Class of 2010.

I'm currently a Human Resources Coordinator at EMC Corporation in Hopkinton, MA (Fortune 500 Information Storage/Solutions company), working with leadership development, talent management, and leading an internal audit presentation of HR programs within our organization. My undergraduate thesis, co-authored with Adam Sulkowski, is scheduled to be published in the next issue of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Review (IER) expected to come out mid-December. And I've been training for and racing in half marathons!

Paul Weston.

B.A. English. Class of 2010.

I am pursuing my M.A. in Communication (with concentrations in Public Relations and Advertising) at Suffolk University, and I recently received a Fellowship in the Graduate Admissions office at Suffolk U. I'm also finishing up a big project for the Boston Bruins.

Are you an Honors Program alum?
Tell us what you're doing!

Email us at:
rdarst@umassd.edu.

We'd love to feature you in our
Alumni News section.

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New UMD Honors Program Logo!

The Honors Student Council held a logo design contest for our new Honors Program logo. The winning entry was selected by the Honors Student Council and awarded a \$100 prize to the Campus Bookstore.

Ben Thayer, a freshman mechanical engineering major, won the contest with his design, which features a Phoenix, the mythological bird symbolizing rebirth and renewal.

