

ADHC Student Meets President Bush

by Shyam Patel and Cliff Lau

In 2002, President Bush called for all Americans to dedicate at least two years of their lives to community service. A year later, in the summer of 2003, President Bush acknowledged those who fulfilled that wish by meeting with them.

Amongst them was Marisa Fontainhas, a recent graduate of the NJIT Albert Dorman Honors College. President Bush acknowledged Fontainhas' dedication to helping the community. In a humble tone, Fontainhas dubbed her meeting with the President an "amazing experience."

After meeting him, she felt she became part of a "bigger group...a bigger purpose." Fontainhas left the meeting proud of having met one of the most important people in the world.

The New Jersey Nets & Devils Foundation recognized Fontainhas as a Jersey Nets Scholar and gave her the opportunity to meet with President Bush. The New Jersey Nets & Devils Foundation seeks to award students who have devoted time and care to their community. Fontainhas' list of achievements is certainly an eye-catcher, and she, along with several other students, received the prestigious New Jersey Nets Scholarship in 1998.

Born in Portugal, Fontainhas immigrated to the United States at age four and has lived in Newark, New Jersey, ever since. Throughout her college career, Fontainhas

demonstrated her love for helping the community. She participated with her sorority in the renovation of a playroom at St. Rocco's, a shelter for homeless women and children. She also volunteered in St. John's Soup

Kitchen and coordinated Miniversity of '99-'00 at NJIT.

Fontainhas was an active member of numerous clubs and societies on campus. She also held a few leadership positions that demonstrated her enthusiasm and determination to make a difference.

Fontainhas believes that, "Community service is a gift. Helping others feel good is priceless." Her hard work has certainly paid off, and she has been recognized for her dedication to helping the community.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADHC Student Meets President Bush	1
Honors College On The Move	2
Honors College Float Wins Second Place	2
2003 Honors Freshman Retreat	3
Honors Colloquia	4,5
The New Honors Lounge	5
The Honors Council	6-9
Summer Experiences	10
Honors Architecture Exhibits	10
Challenges Faced By Honors Athletes	11
Honors Date Auction	12

Honors College On The Move

by Usama Elmalak and Daniel Perez

On September 26th, after nine years of being located in Tiernan Hall, the Albert Dorman Honors College moved to the newly-built East Building. This move constitutes one of the most extreme changes in the history of the ADHC. The Honors College will now be located on the fourth floor of the East Building, across from the elevators, in room 420. Along with moving the administrative offices, a newly established Honors lounge, computer lab, project room, and conference room are now located on the fourth floor.

The new facilities are bigger and more organized than the older ones. For instance, the Computer Lab is now located adjacent to the lounge making it much more convenient for students to access the resources available. The lounge now includes a newer kitchen area with a full size refrigerator and microwave. The quiet study area includes a balcony overlooking the heart of the campus. Dulce Mascarinas, 3rd Year Biomedical Engineering Major says, "The three rooms that make up the Honors Center help me accomplish work while also providing me with a relaxing environment."

Dr. Reibstein, the Associate Dean of the Honors College, comments, "They are terrific, spacious and I would love to see more students come up and visit the new lounge. It is a nice place to hang out." Additionally, students now have access to a conference room that can be reserved for meetings through the ADHC. Furthermore, a new project room is now available to showcase the students' research and academic accomplishments. According to Dr. Reibstein, it is a versatile space that can be used in many different ways. Honors students are encouraged to take full advantage of these facilities.

Ultimately, the general consensus is that the new facilities are far superior compared to the old ones. They provide a critical step in the advancement of the honors college and can be used as a great recruitment tool to attract potential students. The future of the Albert Dorman Honors College shows great promise.

Honors Float wins 2nd Place

by Vivek Gangiredla

In keeping with the "Building a Highlander Tradition" theme of the NJIT Family Weekend Float Competition, Honors College students built a splendid float featuring NJIT's oldest building, Ebehardt. The float also featured the foundations of the new Campus Center building, with a hand-drawn graphic of the Highlander emerging from within. It was accompanied by Honors student Jessica Ho in a Highlander costume. The float won second place in the competition, garnering numerous votes for its brilliant construction and apt thematic representation of the Highlander tradition.



2003 Honors Freshman Retreat

by Radha Yamarthy

The 2003 Honors Freshman Retreat was an experience enjoyed by all. It was highly successful in accomplishing its three goals: to encourage interaction within the freshman class, to educate incoming students about the honors college, and to make sure everyone has a fun time. Many students agreed that the retreat was a great way to meet others and to make new friends before classes started.

The retreat began on Thursday, August 28, when all the first year honors students moved in. That evening, the freshmen were divided into different teams and attended a barbecue on the Green. On Friday morning, three buses full of students left for the campsite, located in Blairstown, NJ. This year, the retreat was held on a new campsite, which many of the counselors agreed was much better than the one used in the past. The quality of the facilities and the food at the new campsite was said to be much better than that of the old campsite. A few activities missing from this year's retreat were the tug of war competition, canoeing on the lake, and a water tarp down the hill -- all things that could not be transferred to the new campsite.

After arriving at the campgrounds, students were welcomed by Dr. Joel Bloom,

Dean of the Honors College. Lunch was followed by activities such as the marshmallow tower building contest, "Izzy Dizzy," and various relay races. Once all the activities were completed, students were given some free time. Some played basketball or volleyball while others swam in the pool, played cards, or conversed.

On Friday evening, the freshmen were addressed by Dr. David Reibstein, the Associate Dean of the Honors College, and Ms.

Chipepo, the Assistant to the Dean.

The first-year students were informed of their obligations as honors students and the requirements that need to be met in order to stay in the Honors College. Following the talk, nominations for Freshman Class Representative to the Honors Council were made. The evening ended with another period of free time, during which many people watched a movie.

Saturday marked the end of the Honors Retreat. After breakfast, the students viewed a slideshow presentation of the previous day's events and spoke about their likes and dislikes regarding the retreat. Most of the students thought the retreat was fun and enjoyed working with each other on the various events. Overall, the freshmen found the retreat to be an helpful and exciting experience.



Honors Colloquia: Enriching Your College Experience

by Christopher Hodac

From art and science to business and politics, this semester's lineup of honors colloquia covers them all. While the colloquia offer a unique opportunity for honors students to enhance themselves, it is important to remember that it is required that students attend at least two colloquia each semester, although students are encouraged to attend as many as they can. This semester offers a total of ten colloquia, ranging from topics like nanotechnology to a play on the complete works of Shakespeare.

The first colloquium is a panel discussion on innovative technologies and the careers associated with them. Moderated by Dr. Ronald Rockland, this discussion covers the fields of Biotechnology, Information Technology and Transportation. The panel consists of Dr. Anthony Costen from Ethicon Inc., Paul D. Bloom from IBM's communication research department, and NJIT's own Dr. Rachel Liu, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The second colloquium is a lecture by author and journalist Laurie Garrett about global health and disease prevention. This colloquium is being held at Montclair State University, so students will be required to provide their own transportation.

The third colloquium in the fall series brings a change of pace as the Honors College goes to Sandy Hook, New Jersey. This trip focuses on the historic properties there and how architects use a method

called multi-use adaptation in order to preserve such sites. Next, the colloquia series moves to the political arena as Representative Rush Holt (*pictured on this page*) from the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey talks about his work as one of the few scientists in Congress.

For those students interested in the arts, the next colloquium, a play entitled *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, is a great way to earn colloquium credit while enjoying a work of art. In order to receive full credit for this colloquium students must also attend the conversation with the director of the play held immediately after the show. Moving back to the field of science, the following colloquium is about building a career in science. The presenter for this discussion is Dr. Elsa Reichmanis, a prominent member of the scientific community and the director of the advanced materials integration research department at Bell Laboratories.

For the history majors in the honors college, the next colloquium in the series should be an interesting one. Professor Arthur McIvor, Reader in History at the University of Strathclyde, U.K., discusses the history of occupational health from a British perspective. As the semester winds down, the next colloquium offers a very unique opportunity for honors students to talk to prominent members of the business community at the semiannual ADHC Round Table. This is where students can ask a



Honors Colloquia:

... continued

variety of questions about specific careers and ask for advice from experts in the field.

The second to last colloquium in the fall series is on the relatively new field of nanotechnology. The presenter, Dr. Donald H. Sebastian, Vice President for Research and Development at NJIT, discusses his plan to create a nanotechnology consortium in New Jersey, which will further aid in the development of nanotechnology and broaden its applications.

The final colloquium in the series is on entrepreneurship in the new economy. Larry Gardner, CEO of CyberExtruder, will talk about his experiences as an entrepreneur in the real world. CyberExtruder.com Inc. is a New York company that has developed proprietary software and web-based technology, which will convert a single 2-dimensional (2D) image into a fully developed 3-dimensional (3D) model in just a few seconds.

Using the company's CyberX-3D™ process, a person can put their face in the action of multi-player games such as Unreal Tournament, Quake3: Arena and The Sims, and become an actual character in the game. Mr. Gardner will talk about how to handle certain situation in the entrepreneurship field.



For more information on the fall colloquium series, contact the Honors College Office, or visit the colloquium website at: http://honors.njit.edu/colloquium/colloq_03F.htm.

The New Honors Lounge

Fernando Solano, 1st Year Architecture Major: "The Honors Lounge helps replace some of comforts on-campus residents lose. I think of it as a community living room that helps me get away from work for a while."



Jason Schooling, 2nd Year Civil Engineering Major: "The Honors Lounge provides an excellent opportunity to relax after working hard in classes, and fosters fellowship between highly motivated students from diverse backgrounds."



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compiled by Jeff Jaskot, Usama Elmalak and Vivek Gangiredla



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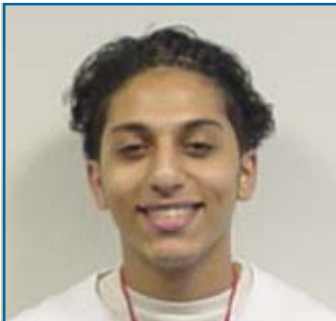
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Summer Experiences

by Steve Mawhinney

There are many things to do in the summertime. You can hit the beach, play some sports, go to a few barbeques. But the summer break from classes is also a great time to gain some valuable work experience in your field of study. That is just what many honors students were doing over this past summer.

For example, Usama Elmalak, an honors senior who is a Computer Science major, got the opportunity to work at Colgate-Palmolive in Piscataway, NJ. He worked in the Global Microbiology Department doing computer programming. Usama was able to develop Microsoft Excel applications to ease data analysis. Commenting on his valuable experience, Usama said, "I got to learn how much testing really goes into the release of a product. To make sure it's healthy with no contaminants, it's quite impressive."

Senior Jonathan Porus, who is double majoring in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, also gained some experience in his field this summer. Jon worked at Novartis, a pharmaceutical company in East Hanover, NJ. He was able to do some mathematical modeling and simulation, helping to create a database of gene expression data. He used computer software to form a data network of information about the effect of different genes on body function and the body's reaction to various drugs. "It was a very enriching experience," Jon said, "which helped me to learn some new skills. While gaining from it myself, I also felt that I was able to make a contribution to the modeling team."

Seth Levy, another senior ADHC student, was also busy this summer doing research with Professor Hornthrop from the math department. The subject of Seth's research

was catalysis reaction modeling, and his job was to help find the most efficient computer calculation method based on such parameters as accuracy and calculation speed. Seth comments, "I found it very enriching and useful for my future in graduate studies. It was good preparation for graduate research."

As you can see, there are many opportunities for honors students to gain field experience over the summer. This is not just for seniors, but for students in all years of study. Why not see if you can get a job or research position in your field next summer?

Honors Architecture Exhibit



The exhibit, "Montessori Kindergarten: A wall for protection and exploration", which won second place in the Architecture 563 competition. The team included Honors students Victor Keto Keto, Jason Lucas and Dawn Dyer.

Challenges Faced By Honors Athletes

by Christina Recine

Between the demands of classes and studying, it is hard to imagine that any college student has enough time to eat, sleep, or even breathe. For those in the Albert Dorman Honors College, the bar is set considerably higher. The students have to manage a more challenging curriculum and scrape together enough time to fulfill service requirements. Despite the many challenges the Honors College seemingly presents its students with, many still find the time to participate in NJIT's sports teams.

Most of the Honors athletes reported that time management is essential to being able to handle both classes and practices. For Charles Leppo, an architecture major and member of NJIT's baseball team, the best method of balancing work and practice is to "sacrifice sleep." Austin Derogatis, another member of the baseball team and a major in civil engineering, agrees with his teammate and adds a few words of advice: "Don't wait until the last minute to do your work." On the whole, a majority of the athletes reported that finishing assignments takes precedence over sleeping and, occasionally, practices.

The most difficult obstacle the athletes encounter is trying to stay on top of their assignments. Craig Tonic, an undecided engineering major on the soccer team, admits, "There is already a lot of work. Sports take a lot of time. While everyone is busy studying, I am at practice. I have to compete on the same level as those who have fifteen more hours per week than I to study." Despite what may appear to be more stress than is necessary, the athletes all agree that participating in a sport is worth the minor difficulties. Tonic cites his teammates as the reason for continuing to play soccer and says they are "a good group of guys; lots of friends." Similarly,

Derogatis states, "workload plus minimal time equals stress," but agrees with teammate Leppo that "team chemistry" is what keeps them coming back.

Being an athlete and an honors scholar can be overwhelming at times, but not for Mark Ubaldi, an information technology major. As a member of the swim team, Mark says that his two hour practices do not disturb his schedule much and his only concern is "keeping the 3.2 GPA" that is required of all honors students in order to stay in the program. The tremendous understanding that the NJIT athletic coaches have helps athletes like Mark. The coaches expect their athletes to attend practice, but also realize that the students' main purpose at NJIT is to pursue an education. As a member of NJIT's very first women's cross country team, I know first hand the pressures of work and sports. After two weeks of missing practices, I was still able to participate in meets.

Obviously, the hard work is paying off both in the classroom and on the field. Women's cross country can brag of a 3 and 1 record and baseball ties with 4 wins and 4 losses. The men's soccer record is not far behind with 2 wins, 5 losses and 1 tie. While the swim team has not yet begun to compete, the number of incoming athletes is a promising start.

The precedence these athletes are setting is proof that Honors College students are not all work and no play, but are successful at what they do. The variety of sports the students play also reflects the diversity of the members of the Honors College. The fact that so many students are getting involved shows that it is possible to integrate a little extra activity into a primarily work filled lifestyle.

Honors Date Auction

by Jessica Ho and Alex Valdes

The date auction has long been an Honors College tradition since its inception almost four years ago. The Honors College Social Committee, chaired this year by Deepti Sanjai, organizes this charitable event. This event also encompasses an after party for those that were successfully auctioned off and the winning bidders. Every year, the Honors College donates all proceeds of this event to a charitable organization. At the end of last year's date auction, \$1210 was collected for the children of the Peter Ho Memorial Clinic.

This year, on October 22nd, the emcees Tom Magnifico and Rich Boyle faced the daunting task of matching last year's success. The fourth Annual Honors College Charity Date Auction was held on the second floor of the new Campus Center from 3 to 5:30 PM. It was a thoroughly entertaining event with numerous bidding wars, with a highest bid of over two hundred dollars. The emcees did a great job of involving the audience in the the auction and egging on the bidders to keep raising their bid. The event was extremely well-run and became the most successful date auction yet by raising \$1600.

The after party was hosted by house DJ Nick Nagy in the Faculty Dining Room on the third floor of the Campus Center later in the evening. Everyone had a good time enjoying the warm atmosphere and delicious food. Overall, the Honors Date Auction helped raised money for a charitable cause while providing the students with a fun and entertaining experience.

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