

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

NJIT

VOL. 5: ISSUE 2

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

by Unum Rahmat

Through its various programs and plethora of volunteering events, the Honors College Community Service Committee has enabled many students to give back to the community and truly understand the meaning of caring. As Community Service Chair, Sita Kulkarni has set up a number of events that allow students to contribute to the Newark community. A few of the projects that the committee has been involved in include serving the Newark Goodwill Rescue Mission Soup Kitchen on University Avenue, cleaning up the Passaic River in Newark, participating in Habitat for Humanity programs, reading to children, tutoring in the University Learning Center at NJIT, and participating in the robotics competition for middle and high school students. Each of these events has brought NJIT students and many others together to help create a better, cleaner, and happier community.

In the spring semester, the Service Committee will also participate in the "Quest for Million Pennies" where loose change will be sent to St. Jude's Hospital for cancer research. Moreover, to allow students to have more opportunities to participate in the events, a weekly trip to the soup kitchen will be held, and there will be two days in April to participate in the Habitat for Humanity program.



Sita Kulkarni and Rina Shah at the Newark Goodwill Rescue Mission

The newest project the committee will participate in is the "Let's Get Ready" program. As participants, honors students will help high school students with SAT preparation and college application procedure.

The benefits of volunteering are numerous. For one, students receive service credits for participating. The true reward however, is knowing that all the hard work and dedication to volunteering is truly appreciated. In fact, one man who went to the soup kitchen said, "We always feel that students are too busy to help, so when they do [help], we truly feel their intentions and efforts."

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ALBERT DORMAN HONORS COLLEGE

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED

by Unum Rahmat

The experiences students gain by volunteering are unique and enlightening. When volunteering for Reading Day, Sita mentioned that the honors students helped the younger children with their counting and numbers homework. The children then had the option of either reading to the volunteers or letting the volunteers read to them. The little girl Sita was with chose to read to her. Whenever she had difficulty pronouncing a word, Sita was there to teach her how to say it. When she came to the same word again, the little girl became excited because she was able to pronounce it on her own. "It was a rewarding experience, especially when the little girl I was helping smiled because she was able to write and count on her own," said Sita.

Meanwhile, some of the older children played pool with the volunteers. They were so pleased when they won because they actually beat "college students." When it was time to leave, everyone was sad that the day had ended. As the volunteers were leaving, the little girl gave Sita a big hug to show how she had appreciated all that Sita had done for her. These reactions are what volunteers live for.

A lot of thanks and gratitude go out to all the students involved in the community service group. It is because of their time and effort dedicated to helping others that the Honors College Community Service Committee is able to thrive.



Shyam Patel and Amit Kaushal
serving food at the soup kitchen

PERFORMING THE "GHOSTS OF ROWAN OAK"

by Rodrigo A. Balarezo



The piano presents acoustic sounds, while the ceiling lights glow in multi-colors. Last minute construction and arrangements are executed quickly. Rehearsal begins!

Devoted student actors regularly attend rehearsals for the "Ghosts of Rowan Oak," which will run from March 1st to March 5th. The "Ghosts of Rowan Oak" is an adaptation of the book by Dean Faulkner Wells. In the book, Faulkner tells the ghost stories his uncle used to tell him during his childhood.

Actors are committed to rehearsals, held four nights a week from 6 to 9 pm. Groups gather together and practice their lines, while others set the stage or act scenes with Director Bill Gile. Michelle Raper Rittenhouse, the playwright, also oversees the enactments attentively, correcting and improving sections, while Robert Felstein, the music composer, gets the actors in tune for their respective songs.

Student performers are attracted to the play for several reasons, as Rashi Grewal, an honors student, points out. Although she does not have any lines, Rashi actually plays the flute on stage. In fact, she even wrote her own music for the play. Her motivation comes from her ability to play the flute. "I have played the flute since second grade. I wanted to keep on playing in college, and last semester I saw my opportunity in the play, 'The Final Trial of Richard III.' I was actually on stage, as a character, playing the flute. This was definitely a worthwhile experience that I would like to do again."

The theater offers more than pure enjoyment. For actors, the theater provides the opportunity to transform into someone completely different from their natural selves. This enables actors to escape reality and experience life in an entirely new way.



Rashi Grewal

NEW HONORS FLOOR PROGRAM

by Cliff Lau

By next year, the Honors Floor of Redwood Hall (6th Floor) will be holding more activities to assist the Honors Floor residents. This collaboration between Residence Life (ResLife) and the Honors College is aimed to help honors students fulfill certain honors requirements.

The Resident Assistants of the floor will include more academic-based events in their list of social events, including study sessions and rosters to sign up for community service activities carried out by other committees. Students will be able to attend soup kitchen events, improvement projects, and other events of the sort. This will enable honors students to network and form a close-knit community. According to Ms. Williamson, Honors College Assistant Dean for Academics, and Mr. Bullock, the Resident Assistant (RA) Coordinator of Redwood, these events will also make it easier for honors residents to obtain service credits and form a community. Moreover, it will relieve them from the extra burden of having to step out and search for activities and events to earn the required service credits.

Since these events are targeted for a smaller population, as opposed to the wide gestures made by the RHA and ResLife to accommodate entire dormitories, funding and financing for these social events will most probably come from the Honors College. Another positive outcome of this setup is that the honors RAs will be able to use these special events to help fill up their quota of three socials per semester.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this program however, would be the establishment of an identity for the Honors Floor. The honors RAs see this program as an opportunity to build an image of their floor for the NJIT community. The Honors Floor is generally viewed as a floor for high minded literati who do nothing other than delve into books and scribble equations during their free time. The new program however, will work to remedy this. According to Amit Kaushal, one of the current Honors Floor RAs, other special floors, which are generally called "Living Learning Communities," have a strong range of

activities that help tie students together. The Electrical and Computer Engineering Floor, for example, is able to retain a certain identity simply because of the commonality of its residents' majors.

The question being faced by the Honors Floor and perhaps for all the honors students, is how can identity be established among a diverse crowd? What does it mean to be an "honors" student? The problem of identity still endures in the modern life of today, tending to lead to confusion and aimless drifting. On a smaller scale here at NJIT, the Honors Floor is attempting to find a solution to this identity problem.



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HONORS COLLEGE SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

by Brian D' Alessandro

The lights dim and the curtains rise. A single spotlight shines upon a colorfully dressed woman shouting the opening words to the South African hymn familiar to all those who have seen the original Disney movie. Yes, the *Lion King* on Broadway begins with all the power and emotion that one would expect from a live play. On March 2nd, members of the Albert Dorman Honors College had the privileged opportunity to attend this performance, which one student described as “spectacular” and “unforgettable.”

The sheer detail that went into the play made the subway ride home a game of who could remember the most captivating moment. From the beginning scene at Pride Rock, to the wildebeest stampede, to the final dramatic fight between Scar and Simba, the play perfectly captured the excitement and wonder of the story we all grew up with. So many interesting things were occurring simultaneously, that it was difficult to appreciate it all.

Perhaps the most memorable part of the play was the costume design. The characters of Zazu, Timon, and Pumbaa were played almost like puppets. The actors themselves were clearly visible on stage, but they manipulated their puppets so well that it was easy to forget that they were even there. Even the other animals were cleverly recreated on stage. A man with four long stilts, one on each of his hands and feet, served as a giraffe. Another man moved around small lights in the dark, creating the effect of fireflies. There was even an elephant, mobilized by one person under each leg. All of the outstanding aspects of the play would be too many to list, but one thing is clear: the thought and the effort put into the play made the trip especially fun and worthwhile.

This trip was inspired by the Honors College Social Committee's trip to Broadway last semester, where students attended *Phantom of the Opera*. For many, it was their first major theatrical experience. The success of that trip and the immense positive feedback played a major role in planning more Broadway plays for this semester. Another show students will have the chance to attend is Disney's *Tarzan*, scheduled for May 12th. Maxwell Manyange, an honors student who saw the *Lion King*, is looking forward to *Tarzan* so much that he said, “I wouldn't miss it for the world!”

If the theater is not your idea of an exciting night out, the committee has also planned a sports trip. On March 27th, honors students will have a chance to see the New Jersey Nets play the Phoenix Suns at the Continental Airlines Arena. In addition, a “Battle of the Sexes” volleyball game will be held on Wednesday during Spring Week, and on April 26th, the committee will host Karaoke Night. Once the weather warms up, the committee is also planning on holding Movie Nights out on the green.

With all of these different upcoming events, students have plenty of events to choose from. These events not only broaden the horizons of our honors students, but they are also fun. The Honors College Social Committee deserves credit for encouraging students to get involved. One of the ways that the committee attracts more students is by offering the tickets at significantly reduced rates, which is made possible by the Honors College because they pay for part of the costs of the events. Therefore, these social events are wonderful opportunities for students to get together and really have some fun, while being enlightened and cultured.



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AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE TECHNOLOGY OBSERVER

by David Nare

With a confused look on my face, I wandered around in the Architecture library looking for a familiar face. Being a Chemical Engineer major, I had never had the chance to bring myself to this side of NJIT. Shame on me, right? Before I knew it, an average height gentleman wearing glasses and a big winter coat approached me. Alongside him was a lady, much shorter than him, with a bright smile on her face. The duo, namely Christian S. Howell and LoriAnne Jones, respectively, are the co-editors of the Technology Observer.

The Technology Observer is a yearly magazine published by NJIT Honors College students. Its focus, Christian states, is to “bring technology and science news from NJIT and elsewhere. This could range from cutting research findings and publications, to colloquium recaps and specialized projects.”

Both Christian and LoriAnne are senior students in Architecture and have taken the same classes since their freshman year. To best describe their relationship, LoriAnne cynically labels Christian “the inventor” and herself as “the one that makes and delivers the invention in a practical manner.” However, much credit has to be given to their advisor and Dean of the Honors College, Dr. Joel Bloom, alongside Mrs. Lois Hulin, also from the Honors College. The contents of the Technology Observer are aimed at the NJIT community and alumni. Much sponsorship is required to publish and distribute such a vast number of copies. Hence, Dr. Bloom and Mrs. Hulin assist with the logistics, while also serving as advisors.

Before meeting with them, I talked to a few students and asked if they knew about the Technology Observer. Surprisingly, most people do not know about this great magazine, so I relayed my findings to LoriAnne and Christian. They concurred that most people do not know about the Observer even though

copies are distributed to alumni, NJIT students, faculty, and staff via snail mail in addition to a version of the publication found on the Honors College website. In addition, they will embark on a recruiting mission to get more committed writers to help spread the word around. Moreover, they intend to devote a section to NJIT events, from research symposiums to talks and publications. Christian states, “We hope that will enhance the tenuous relationship between us and our readers.” I have been fortunate to read the Technology Observer’s last two publications, both of which have expanded my knowledge in technology immensely.

LoriAnne and Christian have not only increased their knowledge, but they have also learned a great deal about publication logistics. “The task appears daunting at first, but once I started, I basically hit the ground running and I just fell in love with it. I hope that more students become active in this magazine because although it is hard work, we have a lot of fun along the way,” said LoriAnne. Christian, in response to a summary on what he learned by working with the Observer said, “It allowed me to use creativity, time management, and graphic design skills as well as express my thoughts to the rest of the world.”

The future of the Technology Observer lies in the hands of a to-be-elected editor since both LoriAnne and

Christian are graduating this May. It is their wish that the reputation they have built is not only kept alive, but also enhanced to a higher level. Those interested in becoming a part of the editing, graphic design, or writing team should contact csh2@njit.edu or lmj2@njit.edu. Meanwhile, stay on the lookout for the next issue scheduled to come out the end of March and be sure to visit their website at http://honors.njit.edu/about/tech_observer.php.



Cover of the latest
Technology Observer

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HONORS COLLEGE 2006 GRADUATES

Compiled by Radha Yamarthy

Students Who Graduated in January 2006

Amin, Jiten
Campbell, Michael
Chao, Paul
Daniels, Celena
Estanislao, Lyle
Galego, Brad
Kivich, Nikola
Lustig, Naomi
Magou, George
Mascarinas, Dulce Belle
Mayo, Elizabeth V.
Miller, Robert
Muruvanda, Appaiah D.
Patel, Kunj G.
Patel, Nishant
Roberts, Dennis
Shah, Priyanka
Soni, Dhaval P.
Tran, Thang
Yusuf, Aulia



Students Graduating in May 2006

Adawi, Nabil A.
Altidoka, Yanal I.
Alvarez, Hermes J.
Asfour, David E.
Barsbay, Tambe
Beloni, Ervin
Benoit, Reynald
Berzinskis, Brian A.
Bindra, Supreet Singh
Bonavitacola, Frank Anthony
Cerqueira, Carla
Como, Brian
Czapla, Jason Chester
Franz, Derek Joseph
Holczer, Konrad C.
Hunt, James T.
Ima-Edomwonyi, Ehimwenma P.
Jaffari, Murtuza
Jardim, Thomas Daniel
Johnson, Albert H.
Jones, Lorianne M.
Kazerani, Iman
Khan, Sara
Kmieciak, Janusz M.

Koonts, Jason W.
Lee, Brian
Leichtnam, Elizabeth Marie
Lim, Julia L.
Lipa, Schenley Anne L.
Maiman, Jared E.
Malej, Maciej
Maranski, Louis A.
Marcelino, Ryan
Menegus, Jason W.
Mirkovic, Michael A.
Mistry, Rahul Umed
Nunez, Gabriel
Orozco, Carlos
Ozkan, Ozgur
Patel, Ruchi A.
Peralta, Adonis
Pereira, Joel Prithvi
Pereira, Prasheel Leon
Ponzi, Antonio Mario
Press, Robert M.
Ramon, Jose L.
Rea, Brian
Reza, Jabeen Zehra
Riccobono, Thomas R.
Robinson, Patrick J.
Rosado, Carlos Xavier
Rose, Steven M.
Roux, David
Rozyński, Martha A.
Sanjai, Deepti
Sanyal, Sumita
Schooling, Jason P.
Shah, Ashish B.
Shapiro, Eric S.
Sheth, Palak Pulkit
Shukla, Jay
Singh, Manmeet
Soni, Dhaval P.
Steen, Gary
Tramontano, Michael V.
Turek, Daniel
Vacharakijja, Narain
Vicary, Keith E.
Vieira, Jason Jacinto
Yandun, Sebastian Alejandro
Yang, Hua M.



2006 GRADUATING HONORS STUDENTS

by Radha Yamarthy

Congratulations to the class of 2006! With over 50% of students going on to graduate school and many others planning on working at excellent companies, this honors class seems to be one of the best yet. There are many talented students in this class who are sure to go on to do many great things. Here is a glimpse of some accomplished students and what they have done with their time at NJIT.

Joel and Prasheel Pereira

The Pereira brothers, usually seen together, participate in many of the same activities. Joel and Prasheel, both biomedical engineering majors, feel they have gained an appreciation of their roles as students and more importantly good citizens, through the various opportunities provided by the Honors College. They have volunteered at the Newark Goodwill Soup Kitchen for a couple of years, providing food and drink to hungry city residents. In addition, Joel and Prasheel went on one of the Washington, D.C. trips sponsored by the Honors College. On this trip, they learned that managing the relationship between science and politics is crucial to achieving progress in the scientific world. The brothers also spent a lot of time conducting research and they are currently working on determining the functionality of mesenchymal stem cells derived neuron-like cells. They are matriculating at the New Jersey Medical School next year and hope to get involved with meaningful research projects.

Thomas Riccobono

As most of you already know, Tom, an electrical engineering major, is the current President of the Honors Student Council. He was previously in charge of the Honors College Website Committee and the Honors College Student Center Committee. While maintaining his many extracurricular activities, he continued to excel in school. He has been inducted into honor societies including Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu. One of his work experiences includes working for the last couple of years at General Devices, an electrical engineering company. Last summer, Tom worked with the National Science Foundation at Penn

State University where he worked on a satellite that will orbit in the ionosphere. Part of his work was to redesign a combined digital/analog printed circuit board. Next year, Tom plans to work for the Naval Air Systems Command in the Support Engineering Dept.

Jabeen Reza

Jabeen, an applied physics major, has participated in a wide range of activities at NJIT. She was the Secretary of the Honors Student Council during her sophomore year and President her junior year. Instead of continuing as President, she started the first Amnesty International Chapter at NJIT. Jabeen was a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative at the UN-NGO conference in September 2004, and interned at the American Civil Liberties Union during fall 2005. Currently, Jabeen is interning for the National Association for Muslim Lawyers. In addition to her leadership roles, Jabeen is greatly involved in research at NJIT. She received the NASA Space Grant Consortium scholarship for the summer of 2004, and used the money to do research at the Center for Solar Terrestrial Research at NJIT with Dr. Louis Lanzerotti. She then presented her research at the American Astronomical Society Conference. Jabeen is planning on taking a year off to work at a firm or for Amnesty before pursuing a law degree.

Jason Vieira

Jason, a biomedical engineering major, has been involved in many activities and has held many leadership roles. He has been involved with the NJIT Ambassadors Club for the past four years and was President of it for the last two years. He was also part of the Honors College Recruitment Committee and he founded the Pre-Health Society. He completed the NJIT Leadership Certificate Program during his junior year and participated in the Leadership Team his senior year. Jason has also done very well academically, and was given the best BME senior award last May. He has participated in many kinds of research activities at NJIT and UMDNJ. He plans to take a year off next year but hopes to get into an MD/PhD program.

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A GREAT LINE-UP FOR SPRING 2006

by Eman Rashed

The Spring 2006 colloquia cover a wide and varied scope of topics ranging from women's rights to nanotechnology and theatre.

Honors Trip: New York Historical Society

Through various programs, exhibitions, and tours, the New York Historical Society will enlighten people about how slavery affected New York.

Passing the Torch of Knowledge: NJIT

NJIT honors alumni in professional careers that run the gamut of medicine, law, engineering, science, management and architecture will speak to honors students in roundtable discussion groups. Students will be able to ask questions to benefit from their skills, knowledge, and experiences.

Energy Security and the Quiet Crisis

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Dr. Jackson, who earned a PhD from MIT in theoretical elementary particle physics, will lecture about the major issues facing our nation in obtaining energy supplies to sustain our country's global competitiveness.

Dress for Success Workshop

Do you need to learn how to dress for an interview? Are you wondering what qualifies as "formal," "semi-formal," and "casual" attire? This colloquium will teach you how to dress appropriately to create a good first impression.

The Urban Learning Village - How to design schools that revitalize communities while giving students a great education

Whoever said a school needs four walls to be "functional?" **Mr. Simmens**, former Director of the Office of State Planning in NJ, redefines the concept of schools and their structures by presenting US schools without walls, and US schools located in museums and factories.

The Hidden Corners of International Women's Rights **A panel discussion by Amnesty International**

Amnesty International has invited three speakers **Cynthia Rothschild**, **Denise Bell**, and **Laura Lomas**, to speak about

hardships and trials faced by women, who are generally targeted in times of war because of their gender.

How We Invented the Catalytic Converter

John J. Mooney, considered one of the most important innovators in the history of the automobile industry, will discuss what it took to construct the automotive catalytic converter, which greatly reduced emissions from propane-fueled vehicles.

Women in Architecture, Past, Present, and Future

This is a great chance for NJIT's female architecture students to learn from the experiences of prominent female architects.

Honors Night at the Theater, Part I: THE GHOSTS OF ROWAN OAK

This play is an adaptation from William Faulkner's ghost stories for children, as is recounted by Dean Faulkner Wells.

The Annual Lillian Gilbreth Colloquium

Dr. Cynthia Breazeal, Director of the Robotic Life group at MIT's Media Lab

Dr. Cynthia Breazeal is internationally known for impeccably blending scientific theories, artistic insights, and engineering principles to create robotic creatures more in tune with human emotions, characters and behavior.

Innovation and Commercialization in Nanotechnology

Kees Eijkel, President of Board of Directors of Micro & Nanotechnology Commercialization Education Foundation (MANCEF)

This business-oriented colloquium consists of a panel of entrepreneurs working with European companies. Eijkel will discuss commercialization. MANCEF is an up and coming organization that has supported the formation of over 30 start-ups in the past 15 years.

New Jersey's Environments: Past, Present, and Future **Neil Maher**

This is a great chance to hear NJIT's Prof. Maher, editor of a



Passing the Torch of Knowledge



Dress for Success

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A GREAT LINE-UP FOR SPRING 2006 CONTINUED

by Eman Rashed

volume of essays on NJ's environmental history in the book *New Jersey's Environments: Past, Present, and Future*. Prof. Maher and the coauthors of the book will discuss issues such as wildlife management, ecological measures, solid-waste disposal, and natural disaster awareness.

Honors Night at the Theater, Part 2: Road Road, Jim Cartwright's first and most performed play, is essentially comprised of a series of monologues that are best known for their "stream of conscious" quality.

Third Annual Honors Trip to Washington, DC

This colloquium provides students with the opportunity to explore a range of professional fields in executive and legislative branches of our government with the host, Mr. Robert Cottingham, a well versed Washington veteran.

For further information, visit the Honors College Colloquia website at http://honors.njit.edu/news/colloquium/colloq_06s.php.

COLLOQUIA HIGHLIGHTS

by Fatima Elgammal

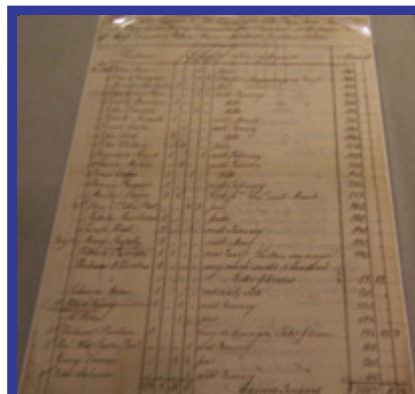
No, this is not about a sports team. We are talking about the Spring 2006 Leadership Colloquia Series. As always, the line-up includes several keynote speakers, the beneficial roundtable with honors alumni, and two theater events entitled "Honors Night at the Theater." This semester however, we have also been presented with the rare opportunity to attend colloquia off campus: New York Historical Society Museum trip and the third annual honors trip to Washington, D.C.

This year, the New York Historical Society Museum featured an exhibit on slavery in NY. Students who attended this colloquium learned a great deal about slave trade and how it bolstered the NY economy.

Today, NY is known for its myriad of diversity, a macrocosm of our own NJIT campus. But back in the day, NY was actually regarded as the slave capital of the northeast. At one point, Americans harbored 12 million slaves, buying them for as cheap as a few hundred dollars, and selling them for as much as \$6,000 per person.

The museum exhibit tried to capture the aura of the Atlantic slave trade, which one docent claimed was "the largest forced migration in history." The docent tried to illustrate this point by manipulating projectors, slides, and mesh sheets across the ceiling to create the illusion of traveling by water. In another room, designed to present the life of a slave, a pseudo-well was built on the floor. Instead of flowing with water however, the well consisted of a dramatization of how women in bondage would gather around the well for the day's gossip. We learned all that within the first half-hour of the tour! The rest of the museum visit was just as enlightening.

In mid-May, when the cold winds have passed and finals are over, honors students will be able to attend the third annual honors trip to Washington, D.C. Although NJIT is not a politically driven school, the Honors College feels it is necessary to attend this colloquium to gain better insight into the nation's political aspects. Previous newsletters such as the Fall 2005 issue, which can be found on the Honors College website, provide the typical itinerary of the two day trip which includes attending Congressional hearings and meetings with congressmen and senators. This event is especially vital for enabling students to learn about matters outside of their field, and most definitely a fun way of receiving colloquia credit. E-mail Mrs. Hulin for more information regarding the trip at Hulin@njit.edu.



Slave Roster displayed at the NY Historical Society Museum

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A COLLEGE PROM IN THE WORKS

by Swetha Basani

One more month until final reviews. Two more months until graduation. An entire five more months until graduate school. But only a few more days until the Honors Senior Awards Dinner!

The location has changed, the price has been lowered, and the event is going to be bigger than ever. On Friday, April 7th, the Honors Senior Awards Dinner will be hosted at the beautiful Paris Inn in Wayne, NJ. This event has become an annual tradition of the Albert Dorman Honors College, as it has been occurring for over six years. To make this event truly memorable, planning and preparation began months in advance. The planning committee is comprised of Honors Council Senior Representative, Nabil Adawi, and faculty advisor, Mrs. Lois Hulin. In addition to the planning committee, Honors Council President, Tom Riccobono, has also helped select the location after visiting numerous banquet halls with Nabil. Both felt that the Paris Inn best accommodates needs of the Honors College seniors. The Inn is very upscale, while maintaining a personal ambience. The Honors Senior Awards Dinner has never been held at the Paris Inn before, but it is sure to be a success.

After many years of declining attendance, Nabil hopes to bring back the excitement for the dinner. He wants seniors to anticipate the date and event because the class has worked very hard to make this event a success. Through many fundraising efforts, seniors have been able to considerably reduce the price of the banquet to a mere \$10. Guests will have to pay \$50 to attend the event. Nabil stated, "We recently did a fundraiser selling cookie dough, cheesecakes, and coffee to help reduce the price of the Senior Dinner for students and their guests." In addition, basketball tickets for a Nets vs. Suns game on March 27th and snacks in the

student center were sold to raise more money. All these proceeds will benefit the senior dinner as well as other events planned for seniors. Nabil and the seniors have raised enough money to cover a good portion of the upcoming event's total cost. The reduced price should hopefully attract more seniors to attend the dinner and thus, make the Honors Senior Awards Dinner a memorable event.

The menu will include a cocktail hour and sit down dinner with vegetarian options. Thus, everyone will be given the chance to taste the very best of Paris Inn. Since 1973, the restaurant has specialized in continental Northern Italian cuisine and it is among the top 500 restaurants in the country.

Special attendees to this event include Dr. Joel Bloom, Dr. David Reibstein, and Mrs. Lois Hulin, among other honors faculty. The event will also consist of senior awards, dancing, and socializing. Could there possibly be a better way to end the college years?

As the seniors prepare to graduate and head off to the working world, the banquet provides a wonderful final opportunity to celebrate social and academic achievements with the entire class. The night will be fun-filled and exciting, with potential surprises in

store for students. It is truly a must-attend event, as it will be the greatest occasion of the year.



Paris Inn Banquet Hall



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HONORS AND ATHLETICS: CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

by Diya Abdeljabbar

Since its inception, NJIT has not exactly been recognized for athletics. However, in the past few years the university has taken greater interest in varsity sports. The men and women's soccer teams have recently entered into NCAA Division I competition, while the baseball team is planning to follow in their footsteps. However, unlike these varsity sports, which have become well established over the years, the cross country team experienced immediate success since its beginning, only three years ago. In this short period the cross-country team has established itself as a conference powerhouse and joins the rest of the rising varsity programs, which represent the school nationally.

The NJIT cross-country team consists of a diverse group of students, including honors scholars like Babatunde Busari. Originally from Ibadan, Nigeria, he was in the top 5% of his graduating high school class and among the top 2% in mathematics and physics. While searching for a university that best suited his interests, Busari decided to attend a college in the US. Busari said, "I chose NJIT because of its highly-directed engineering focus. I always wanted to study engineering and wanted a top ranked research university with a strong focus in engineering. NJIT was the exact match for me."

As a freshman with a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, it is hard to believe that Busari has time to attend practices and competitions while maintaining a high enough GPA. Busari assured me it was difficult at first, especially as an international student trying to get clearance to compete in the NCAA. "My first semester was not easy at all," Busari explains, "because several things were new to me and I had to adjust. I took a couple of honors courses my first semester and with the practices for cross-country, things were really tough. I had to figure out how to balance my academics and sports." Like many NJIT student athletes, Busari

learned to work around his class and athletic schedule to find time to work on projects, complete assignments, and study for exams. Of course this involves many long nights of studying followed by exhausting early morning practices. The cross-country team even occupied his weekend schedule as most of the competitions took place on Saturdays and Sundays. Even with his difficult courses, intense practices, and busy weekends, Busari was able to successfully make it through his first semester even while being thousands of miles away from his family.

The Honors College's rigorous academic curriculum is one of the primary things that attracted Busari to NJIT. Busari explains, "NJIT is a public university with a mix of average students and top students. So the Honors College is in place to bring



together the top students so they can challenge one another in different ways." Moreover, Busari is becoming more versatile because of his experiences on the cross-country team and the newly established indoor/outdoor track & field team starting next year. Although track & field have existed as an intramural

club, it will officially be added to the NJIT Division I varsity sports program, along with cross-country, next year.

Athletics are becoming a major part of NJIT. With a number of sports entering elite conferences and representing the university on the national stage, more athletes are likely to make up the student body. Honors student athletes, like Busari, will be the type of individuals who give NJIT a head start in reaching its goals in academics and athletics. As an honors student, Busari sums up his experiences, "I consider it a great privilege to be part of the Honors College because of the priority that has been given to honors scholars. My experiences so far have been all I had hoped for; I have been challenged academically while having a lot of fun."

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A NEW HONORS FACE

by Fatima Elgammal



As you step into the Honors College office, aside from receiving a customary greeting from Ms. Harriette Massey, you'll find that there has been an addition to the Albert Dorman Honors College family: Mrs. Donna Sessoms-Bridges. Although she seems to be a new face to the Honors College, Mrs. Sessoms is not a new member of the NJIT community. Before joining us in the Honors College last semester, she was one of the secretaries in Guttenberg Information Technologies Center (GITC) and NJIT's School of Architecture for seven years. When asked about how she likes NJIT, she replied, "I feel like I'm part of a team." When asked whether she has any difficulties with students, she said, "NJIT students are friendly, and patient." Perhaps she doesn't have any difficulties because she has five children and three grandchildren; clearly, she has a lot of experience with youth.

Mrs. Sessoms' approachable demeanor is imperative in an office that not only deals with fellow administrators, faculty, and staff, but also with students.

If fellow honors students find their way to the fourth floor of Fenster Hall, be sure to stop by and greet Mrs. Sessoms and the rest of the honors office staff. On behalf of the students, we welcome you, Mrs. Sessoms, to the Albert Dorman Honors College.



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